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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

IF, according to the Poet Laureate, "fifty years of Europe" are better than a "cycle of Cathay," so at present two or three years in the extreme West would appear to be pregnant with more significant and momentous events than two decades of years on the European continent or in our own island home. Indeed, it is a happy reflection, in which we may legitimately indulge, that change here is not sudden nor rapid, and that in a gradual and steady development of our national resources and a timely concession to popular demands consist the real progress of which we so justly and proudly boast. But in young countries men seem to live faster than in old; they arrive at a premature maturity, and are rotten before they are ripe. On a great theatre of human action great events are always *about* to be enacted; but, from the occasional glimpses that we can get behind the scenes, the actors would appear to be unworthy of the parts assigned to them. With half a million of men in arms, in the midst of a terrific conflict, one might fondly imagine that in the Congress of so free and enlightened a people as the population of the Federal States of North America some words of high wisdom and statesmanlike sagacity might be spoken; but we listen in vain. It is as bad in the Camp as in the Senate. General McClellan has expressed his determination not any longer to pursue the policy of delay, so fashionable in the North, by achieving a victory or leaving his "corpse stiffening on the battle-field." There is not a boyish ensign in our Army who would be guilty of using language so atrociously vulgar and vain. In Congress the reports we have

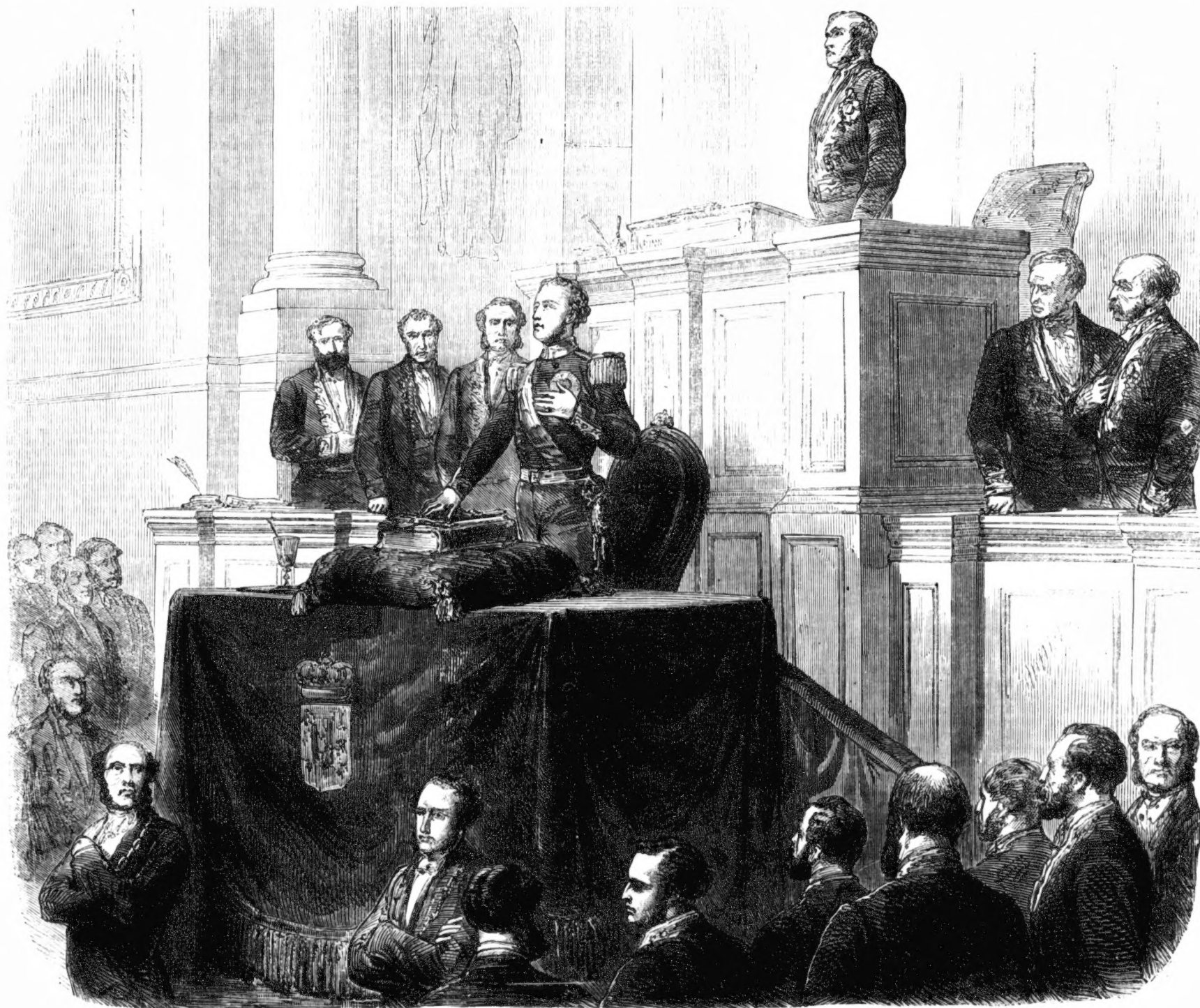
seen of the recent discussion remind us of the proceedings of the Debating Society of the Mechanics' Institute of a small provincial town. Whether the Capitol is to be saved or not we cannot yet tell, but certainly the geese have cackled. The wonderful career and destinies of a hemisphere are discussed with the vague silliness or the rancorous personality of a parish vestry. The Clerk of the House reading the seventh chapter of Joshua aloud to inform its legislative wisdom on the question of rooting out slavery in the South is a fact which will cause, for many reasons, astonishment in the minds of some rational folk, and will probably disturb the tranquillity of even so calm a philosopher as Mr. J. Stuart Mill, or point a sneering sentence in the next volume of Mr. Buckle's "History of Civilisation."

European intervention in Mexico has been eminently successful, and will, we doubt not, be fraught with great benefit to the world at large. The Spanish flag floats over the walls of Vera Cruz; and, as Spain successfully attempts to regain her ancient power in the New World, by the aid of France and England, we discover both in the object aimed at and the combination by which it is attempted to create a new and better era for Mexico. A magnificent country, with great natural resources, may now have some chance of developing them if no longer enfeebled by anarchy and faction. British subjects there will, we hope, be for the future safe, at any rate; and the influences of civilisation we carry with us, albeit we go there under the guise of war, cannot but have some beneficial effect upon the savage and demoralised half-caste population.

The last of the witnesses for the alleged lunatic in the great

and notorious Windham case was examined on Monday, and on Tuesday Mr. Russell, the counsel who appeared for Lady Giubilei, Mr. Windham's mother, addressed the jury, and deprecated the idea that his mother was any party to the investigation. Mr. Karslake followed in a most powerful address, in which he assailed General Windham for cowardice in not placing himself in the witness-box after having filed affidavits. It has certainly been throughout a most scandalous and disgraceful inquiry. Without infringing the maxim that the press ought not to pronounce an opinion upon any case that is still *sub judice*, it is surely competent for it to point out what a dangerous, foolish, and costly kind of procedure such an investigation is, and how easily might be substituted for it some less expensive and more simple method.

A more frightful, painful, and perplexing accident than the colliery tragedy at New Hartley, near Shields, it is impossible to imagine. Parents, husbands, and brothers buried for days deep in the bowels of the earth; and children, wives, and sisters weeping in frantic misery, or racked with the greater horror of silent anxiety, doubt, and despair! Happily, such suffering has seldom before appealed to our sympathies. It is awful to think that those who earn their bread in the sweat of their brow by such hard, stern, and heavy toil as this should be exposed to such dreadful and calamitous accidents as that which has just caused the sacrifice of the lives of two hundred and twenty of our fellow-creatures. The bereaved families of the victims of this sad catastrophe are entitled to, and will no doubt receive, the sincere sympathy of every one. Her Majesty has in this, as in every other instance where suffering and distress claim



THE KING OF PORTUGAL TAKING THE OATHS TO THE CONSTITUTION.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. COSMANS.)

sympathy and alleviation, set an example to her people. Even in the midst of her own great sorrow, her heart has been touched by the dreadful calamity which has befallen the families of the poor miners in the neighbourhood of Hartley, and she has sent messages of inquiry from Osborne as to the chances of rescuing the men and lads in the pit. Now that the victims of the disaster are themselves, unhappily, beyond the reach of aid, we trust their bereaved and destitute families will meet with the sympathy of the whole realm, and that in the substantial form of liberal contributions for their relief.

The Budget of M. Fould seems to fulfil his promise of rectifying the discrepancy between the income and expenditure of France. This result is accomplished partly by reductions of expenditure—one item of which is the disbanding of 46,000 soldiers—and partly by increase of taxation. These are the only sound means of securing a satisfactory balance-sheet in the affairs of nations as of individuals: and it is to be hoped that the first will be applied still more extensively in future years, so as to render the last less necessary. M. Fould still retains the divisions of "ordinary" and "extraordinary" in both the income and expenditure; but the charges under the latter heading in the disbursements seem to be really of that character, as they comprise such items as aids to railways, public roads, and similar works of general utility. The substantial results of M. Fould's Budget are that, by reduction of expenditure to the amount of seventy or eighty millions, and the imposition of taxes producing in the whole a little more than a hundred millions, he balances the income and expenditure for 1863 and secures a small surplus. Of course an estimate of this nature is not very reliable; but we hope the Minister's calculations will in this instance be verified, and that the finances of the empire will again be placed in a satisfactory condition.

There is again an uneasy feeling in Europe in regard to the future. The dispute between Germany, or rather Prussia, and Denmark once more wears a threatening aspect; and Austria and Italy seem not unlikely to come into collision ere long. The language of Francis Joseph and General Benedek at Venice is ominous; and a despatch from Rome, dated the 19th, asserts that Austria is about to address a remonstrance to all the great Powers complaining that the attitude of Piedmont—for such, of course, she styles the Government of Italy—is a standing menace to her, and calling upon them to insist on her disarmament. On the other hand, there are statements again made that Garibaldi and his friends are once more preparing to move; that there are drillings and musters going on, especially among the Italian leader's Hungarian followers, and it is surmised that a descent is meditated on the Dalmatian coast, so as to aid a movement in Hungary. These rumours may have little foundation in truth; but, altogether, the aspect of affairs in Europe is ominous and threatening.

THE KING OF PORTUGAL TAKING THE OATHS.

"The King is dead! Long live the King!" We have recently given some account of the funeral ceremonies of the late King of Portugal, whose death was another terrible blow to the family of Braganza, the members of which have been stricken one by one with disease or have fallen off in the very prime of life.

Not only have the European nations manifested their sympathy with the repeated calamities which have befallen the Royal family at Lisbon, but, in the full tide of a grief not unmingled with suspicion and even indignation, the people of Portugal have exhibited a determined devotion to the throne, and have even sought to enlarge the conditions of the law of succession.

On the 22nd of December the Cortes were assembled by an extraordinary summons, under the presidency of the Viscount de Castro, and the new King, Dom Luis, held his first Royal reception.

His Majesty, after having ascended the throne, extended his right hand over the gospels of the four Evangelists, and the cross, which was placed upon the volume, swearing to maintain the Apostolic Roman Catholic religion, and the complete integrity of the kingdom; and, at the same time, to observe strictly the political constitution of the country and such laws as would conduce to the national benefit.

Addressing himself to the Assembly, his Majesty then said that the universal grief exhibited by the people was at once the most honourable testimony to the affectionate regard in which they held the memory of Dom Pedro, and the most powerful incentive to the Crown and the nation to fulfil their respective duties. "The people whom I have the honour to govern," added he, "is an enlightened people, and worthy, from its love of constitutional policy, to occupy a distinguished place among the most civilised nations." He concluded his discourse by an assurance that the gratitude of his subjects would be the object of his highest ambition, and an adequate recompense for his solicitude. The President of the Cortes then thrice proclaimed the most high, the most powerful, and most faithful King of Portugal, Dom Luis the First, and his Majesty retired from the Court amidst enthusiastic acclamations.

He had scarcely assumed the reins of Government, however, when his brother, Dom John, Duke of Beja, was struck with the same fatal illness to which his relatives had succumbed, and his death threw a still darker gloom over the Royal family, and plunged the King into a grief all the deeper since his brother had so recently been his travelling companion in France, when the first tidings of death caused them to withdraw so sadly from the festivities of Compiègne.

The Duke of Beja was born on the 16th of March, 1842, and had been devoted to a military career, for which he displayed remarkable capabilities; he was a colonel of cavalry, and the recollection of his fine presence and princely figure renders his early death an occasion of genuine grief to all those whose admiration he had gained on his visit to France.

CONTINENTAL NOTIONS OF ENGLISH EXTRAVAGANCE.—The following anecdote, illustrative of the "oddy of the English," is now going the round of the papers at Naples:—When the telegraph was first opened to Newfoundland Lord P., a distinguished member of the Senate, came to the office and said he wished to send a message. "The line is not yet open to the public, my Lord." "But you know me. I have 20,000 'actions' (shares) in your line, and I will give £200 sterling for a message and answer." "Your Lordship must wait two hours for a reply." The message was, "Send me the strongest possible electric spark." Lord P. waited till he heard as follows:—"In one minute the spark." His Lordship then applied his cigar to the wire, and walked off contentedly, with a light which cost him 5000 francs. The story is seriously repeated from paper to paper, and is generally believed "without a struggle."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE only news of importance from France is the report on the state of financial affairs addressed by M. Fould to the Emperor, and which has been made public preparatory to its being laid before the Chambers.

The Minister commences by stating that he proposes to establish in the Budget a great distinction between ordinary and extraordinary expenses. He announces that the ordinary expenses of the budget of 1863 show, in the aggregate, an increase of 70,000,000f. over the estimated expenses of 1862, but this surplus of expenses is only apparent as the supplementary credits, voted or decreed, which have hitherto been added to the provisions of the Budget will now be discontinued. These amounted in 1860 to 131,000,000f.; and, in 1861, to 152,000,000f. M. Fould then continues:

The exposé of the Budget will contain special details on these questions; but I believe it my duty to state at once that there will be in the Ministries of Marine and War an increased expenditure of four millions, calculated on an effective of 400,000 soldiers and 85,700 horses. But these figures, compared with the real effective of last year, show an important reduction, as the average effective of 1861 was 467,000 men, which, by the 1st of January, 1862, was reduced to 446,000. By the 1st of January, 1863, it will be reduced to 400,000. In the Budget of the Ministry of Marine the credits amount in the aggregate to 168,000,000f. for the ordinary and extraordinary service, which forms an important diminution in the expenditure in preceding financial years. In fact, notwithstanding the increase of 70,000,000f. on the supplies of 1862, the Budget of 1863 will show a real and considerable reduction.

M. Fould then proceeds to give an account of the ways and means of the Budget. He will exonerate from all personal taxes, and taxes on personal property, every individual who has nothing but his work by which to obtain a livelihood. Every workman who works alone will be exonerated from the tax of a patent for the exercise of his trade. M. Fould will also reduce to 1 per cent the duties on valuables transmitted by post. In order to ensure the regularity of those branches of the public service in which the estimated expenditure might be exceeded, the Minister proposes to modify certain taxes as a means of increasing the revenue. These taxes are a new tax on horses and carriages of luxury, which is estimated to produce 5½ millions francs; and the augmentation of the fixed dues and fees at the public register offices, which would produce ten million francs. A modification is also proposed in the method of collecting the proportional registry fees, which would produce a revenue of ten million francs. A slight increase of the stamp duties is estimated to yield nine and a half million francs. An increase in the stamp duties on bills of stock and licensed brokers, which would produce 12,000,000f. A fixed tax on bills of account and on receipts is estimated to produce 12,500,000f.

The total of these new resources is estimated at 50,000,000f., which will allow of the settlement of the ordinary Budget of 1863, and leave a surplus of revenue amounting to 20,000,000f.

The report from M. Fould caused the greatest excitement on the Bourse on Wednesday, and the public funds declined considerably. At the close of business, however, a more quiet tone prevailed.

ITALY.

Rumours are prevalent of an approaching marriage project destined to unite Prince Oscar of Sweden to the second daughter of King Victor Emmanuel.

A Turin journal says that there is a proposition under discussion for substituting Italian for Pontifical troops in the patrimony of St. Peter; or, at least, of establishing mixed garrisons of French and Italian troops, in order to ensure tranquillity in the interior, and deprive the brigands of all refuge. Rome would continue to be occupied by the French. The Pontifical Government would thus be enabled to dismiss almost all its troops, and be relieved from a heavy burden.

A despatch has been made public which was addressed, on the 3rd inst., by Baron Ricasoli, to the representatives of Italy at the various foreign Courts. After a reference to the discussions in the Chamber of Deputies, and the important decisions as to the finances of the country at which that body has arrived, the despatch alludes to the vote of confidence in the Ministry, rather for its importance as again sanctioning the programme which is conducting Italy towards entire unity than for the gratification it affords to individuals. In reference to the difficult and important questions of Rome and Venice, the despatch says:—"Despite the difficulties which we have encountered, the Chamber has again declared that Rome is necessary to the unity and tranquillity of Italy; but at the same time it has given its attention to the documents placed before it by the King's Government, and has avowed that the nation is sincerely devoted to religion, and ready to grant with the greatest eagerness the surest guarantees that Catholic consciences can desire for the dignity and independence of the Holy Father. On the subject of Venice the Chamber has expressed itself with equal firmness and moderation. In recommending an armament to the Ministry it has not sought to provoke any premature conflict, but only to show Europe that Italy seeks to put its forces in just proportion to the requirements of its position, and that, for the rest, it leaves to the wisdom of its Government the choice of the occasions and means which are deemed suitable to realise in an effective manner the recovery of that part of Italian territory." The results obtained in so short a space of time, and in the midst of all the difficulties attached to a state of transformation, show, it is contended, that Italian unity is now established on the firmest basis; and the altered state of the southern provinces is cited, amongst other proofs, as affording remarkable evidence of the fact.

In the course of a discussion in the Chambers on the 15th inst. Baron Ricasoli, in explaining the policy of the Government, said that he had endeavoured to complete the Cabinet by the appointment of a Minister of the Interior, but that the pending reforms created insurmountable obstacles. He was not disposed to make a compromise with political parties. "The Ministry," he continued, "did not consider that it would be dignified on their part to resign without a declaration of want of confidence from the House. Should it condemn their policy they would know their duty." As regards the affairs of Naples, he said, "The Government had accepted a heavy responsibility in order to hasten the accomplishment of the unification of Italy." Touching the Roman question, Baron Ricasoli said, "At Rome the destinies not only of Italians but of humanity in general will be accomplished. It is not possible to determine the time of our triumph. It may be that at this very moment our destinies are ripening." The Chamber passed a resolution expressive of its satisfaction with the declarations of the Ministry. In another debate, on the 17th, Baron Ricasoli said, in reference to the collection of Peter's pence, "These Peter's pence ruin the Catholic religion. Their object is war against the nation; but of all the countries in the world Italy has contributed the smallest sum. The amount of the subscriptions in Italy is so small that it is not worth while to attach any importance to them. The Pope is no King, but the chief of the Catholic religion. Our institutions forbid any measures which might lead to an inquiry into the intentions of those who subscribe."

A detachment of French troops has entered Alatri and arrested ten Bourbon officers. Alatri will be jointly occupied by French and Papal gendarmes.

PORTUGAL.

The Regency law has been unanimously passed by the Cortes. The health of the Infante Dom Augusto is improving. He is now able to take a carriage drive.

AUSTRIA.

There is little news of interest from Austria. While the Government organs continue to declare that all classes in Hungary are

settling down to a quiet acquiescence in the measures of the Government, the Opposition journals as persistently speak of the state of chronic discontent which pervades the minds of the people. The new officials of one of the departments, on taking the oaths of office, have attached to the declaration of loyalty to the dynasty a protest against the illegal way in which the Government of Hungary is at present carried on.

PRUSSIA.

M. Grabow was elected President of the Chamber of Deputies; M. Behrend, member for Dantzic, first Vice-President; and M. Bockum-Dolffs, second Vice-President of the Chamber. Both Vice-Presidents belong to the Progressist party. This section of the Chamber, at a meeting held on Wednesday, resolved, after a prolonged discussion, to abstain from making any proposition in reference to an address to the King in reply to the Royal speech.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

The Russian Government has published an Imperial ukase announcing that an increase is to take place in the poll and stamp taxes, and in the import duties, which in the latter case will be 5 per cent for articles entering Russia by the European and Asiatic frontiers.

The Pope and the Emperor of Russia have agreed that a Papal Nuncio should in future reside in Russia—a concession which the head of the Greek Church has not allowed for a number of years past.

Poland, though far from being perfectly quiet and peaceable, is less agitated than hitherto, and an announcement that the state of siege was about to be raised, and the expectation that a change in the system of government was to be adopted, had given rise to hopes of a better state of things for the future. The new Archbishop, the Abbe Felinski, was daily expected at Warsaw. He is a young man of about thirty-six, and brought up in Jesuit principles. The tide of opinion in Poland is said to be against him, not so much for his known or unknown tendencies, as on account of his having been proposed for the office by the Czar.

TURKEY.

An Imperial hatt was read on the 11th at the Porte promising immediate financial reforms. The payment of all official salaries has been stopped until March.

It is reported that the Bulgarian emigrants in Russia are ill-treated, and universally desire to return.

The system of farming the taxes has been resumed.

There have been many wrecks in the Black Sea, attended with great loss of life.

The insurgents of Zubzi have sent an insulting reply to the proclamation of Omer Pacha, in which he promised them an amnesty if they surrendered. The inhabitants of Schuma have not replied to the proclamation from fear of the insurgents. Luka Vukalovich, together with some other insurgent chiefs, is still at Cetttigne. The Catholics of Popova have applied to Omer Pacha for protection.

AFFAIRS OF HESSE CASSEL.

The dissolution of the Second Chamber of Hesse Cassel by the Elector has been followed by measures of passive resistance on the part of the people against the Government. An organisation has been formed against the payment of taxes, and the seizures effected have only had the effect of showing the feebleness of the authorities and the strength of the people. The Army, it is asserted, share the sentiments of the people, and no reliance can be placed on its fidelity in case of a conflict.

The Elector has refused to receive an address from the representatives of the country. His Minister of the Interior has sent back the document to the President of the Chamber reminding him that the Assembly, being dissolved, is not authorised to come to any resolutions whatever. Being prepared for such a decision all the deputies, except two, have signed a document protesting against what has been done.

CHIAVONE THE BRIGAND.—Valentino Alonzi, the brother of Luigi Alonzi, better known as Chiavone, has surrendered, with three of his comrades, to Colonel Lopez, in command of the 44th Regiment, at Sorà. They have been sent to prison for trial. It is also announced that Chiavone himself has resolved to surrender as soon as he learns that his brother has been treated with indulgence.

THE DUKE OF MALAKOFF.—The Madrid journals state that the Duke of Malakoff has written a letter to General Orozco, Captain-General of Valencia, in answer to a communication from that officer, regarding the late fracas between them. The Marshal declares that the General, in their interview, did not pronounce a single word offensive or improper; and that, on his side, he certainly had no intention whatever to utter a word that could give offence.

CONGRESS OF REACTIONARIES.—A letter from Venice in the *Nord* says:—"For the truth of the following I can vouch: Summoned by his Majesty's orders, Count de Rechberg has arrived here, and a conference has taken place. At this conference there were present the Prince de Petrucci, formerly Ambassador of Naples at Vienna; a secretary of legation, and envoys of the various dethroned Princes, and also some priests. It is more certain than ever that a reactionary campaign of extraordinary proportions is about to take place under the auspices, more or less avowed, of Austria. Baron de Bach, Imperial Minister at Rome, is daily expected at Venice, and also the Archduchess Sophia. This reactionary congress would not be of much importance if we left out of sight the bellicose preparations of Austria, and the speeches delivered to the troops here, and at Verona, Mantua, and even at Borgofero, the extreme limit of the Austrian military occupation, all of which are more or less a species of defiance to Italy and France."

FRANCIS II. AND THE SUFFERERS BY THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS.—Francis II., ex-King of Naples, has sent, through the Cardinal Archbishop, a contribution towards the relief of the sufferers by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, accompanied by a letter which is remarkable for the naïveté of its egotism and its true Bourbonian obstinacy of infatuation. Francis expresses the deepest commiseration for the people of Naples, whom he touchingly regards as a nation robbed, by invading force, of a beloved king. He seems to forget that when the invader came in at one end he ran out at the other, and that not one of his loving subjects of Naples raised a hand in his defence. Francis proclaims that he owes the last drop of blood and the last crown to his beloved people. If he accepts the debts of his ancestors he does indeed owe much blood and many crowns to the people of Naples, for of both treasures the Bourbon Kings of Naples took liberally from their subjects. Francis regrets that he cannot come among his people to alleviate their misfortunes. A Neapolitan Bourbon of modern days coming among his subjects to alleviate their misfortunes would indeed be a strange and novel sight, more curious to see than an eruption of Vesuvius.—*Sat.*

LIFE-BOAT SERVICES.—During a heavy storm on Friday, the 17th inst., the life-boats of the National Life-boat Institution stationed at Lytham, Llandalk, and Tyrella, succeeded respectively in bringing safely to port the schooner Chance, of Preston; the schooner Rock, of Liverpool; and in saving the master of the schooner Bellona, of Red Bay, county of Antrim, wrecked in Dandrum Bay. The Tyrella is the gift of a benevolent lady who had previously presented to the institution the cost of the life-boats at Newquay and St. Ives, Cornwall, and Buckie, Scotland.

CHAIR OF MODERN HISTORY AT OXFORD.—It is said that there will be nine candidates for the Chair of Modern History at Oxford, and the names mentioned are those of Mr. J. A. Froude, of Exeter; Mr. C. H. Pearson, of Oriel; both well known as men of great historical knowledge and eminence; Mr. E. A. Freeman, of Trinity; Mr. W. W. Shirley, of Wadham; Mr. Shepherd, also of Wadham; Mr. J. T. Rogers and Captain Burrows, both of Magdalen Hall; Mr. G. Broderick, of Merton; and Mr. Oakley, of Magdalen.

A WEALTHY EMIGRANT.—A man named Butcher, on board the Gananoque, which arrived at Auckland on the 18th of October last from London, was charged with attempting to smuggle arms and gunpowder; and the Customs authorities, on further searching Mr. Butcher's boxes, discovered that he had an immense stock of gold watches, diamond rings, and other articles of jewellery of great value, estimated at between £10,000 and £12,000. The police commissioner decided upon having a photograph of Butcher taken and sent to the metropolitan police, as it might turn out that he was known by another name in London to the detective officers. There have been several extensive robberies of jewellery in England recently, and it is just possible that this will prove the means of recovering the stolen property.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

GENERAL NEWS.

THE interest in the American news is now much less intense than it has been for some time past, nor is there much to revive it in the details that reach us. Our advice is to the 11th instant. The following is a general summary of their contents:—The Trent question had been the subject of debate in both Houses of Congress. Mr. Sumner, in the Senate, admitted that Captain Wilks was wrong in seizing the Commissioners, but said that in so doing he acted according to international law as expounded by the British authorities, and claimed the concession of Messrs. Mason and Slidell at the demand of England as a great political triumph for American principles. The debate in the House of Representatives was marked by a great degree of rancour against England, and threats of retribution at some future period were freely indulged in. A Congressional Committee had reported on a bill authorising the issue of a hundred million dollars' worth of demand notes, which are to constitute a legal tender, and which may be exchanged at any time for Six per Cent twenty years' Coupons or Registered Bonds. The new tea and coffee tariff is not to be enforced on goods now in bond. A great victory is reported by the Federals at Hilton Head, near Port Royal; and the Federals are said to have advanced within six miles of Charleston. Success is also said to have attended the Northern troops in Western Virginia, where they defeated the Confederates with a loss of eighty killed and wounded, and a large quantity of clothing and stores. On the Potomac, the heart of the war, we hear of nothing but skirmishes, leading to no decided results.

General Burnside's expedition had left Annapolis, and was to rendezvous at Hampton Roads, but its destination was unknown. Twenty-five thousand troops were expected at Cairo, and on their arrival General Grant, with a column of 60,000 men, would march on Nashville, and endeavour to effect a junction with General Bull's force, and the combined forces would march upon New Orleans. According to a Southern account the Federals had been driven back under the cover of their gun-boats at North Edisto Island. In Congress the Naval Committee had reported on a bill for the construction of twenty iron-plated steam gun-boats, and the Committee of Ways and Means had proposed the raising of 150,000,000 dollars by taxation during the present year.

Extensive Protestant and Catholic riots have taken place at Caribonnet, Nova Scotia. The troops had been called out and many persons wounded. Quiet was not entirely restored when the despatch was sent off.

GENERAL McCLELLAN'S ADDRESS TO THE ARMY.

General McClellan had addressed the following curious order of the day to the army:—

Washington, Jan. 1.

Soldiers of the Army of the Union.—Though on last New-Year's Day the horizon of our country's happiness was somewhat darkened by the rising clouds of disunion, yet those were comparatively in the minority who did not believe that, ere spring had ripened into summer, the threatened storm would be averted. But this belief, this hope, proved fallacious, and summer was not here before the furious tempest seemed to be sweeping away the very foundation of our liberties. Almost up to this time the Government, relying on the justice of its cause and a knowledge of its real superiority in power over its enemies, refrained from any vigorous vindication of itself until the belching batteries of Charleston harbour rained their iron hail on Fort Sumter to its reduction.

On the 13th of April last the nation held its breath as the lightning flashed in all directions the dire intelligence that the Charleston batteries had opened fire upon Major Anderson and his little band of heroes. And the nation's heart thrilled proudly as the wires kept telling from time to time that Major Anderson, amidst showers of shot and shell, was still bravely battling at his post, and that above the lurid flashes of his cannon could still be seen floating the bright flag of our fathers. But the hope thus awakened was gradually quenched, as word presently came that some of Sumter's guns were silenced; then that the fort was on fire; then that the walls had been breached; and, finally, that "the banner of the stars" had been pulled down and the post surrendered. Soldiers, on that eventful day you were citizens, pursuing the various arts and occupations of peace; but, as the flag of Washington, of 1776, of your own hearts, came fluttering from its staff amid the smoke and flames of Fort Sumter, you became heroes. A few hours later came the call for 75,000 three-months' volunteers, and you nobly left home and dear ones behind to rush to the defence of our threatened capital, some of you coming even without arms, content if only your dead bodies should hinder for a moment the advance of the foe. As the full extent of the peril to which our country was exposed became known, however, this number was found inadequate to the accomplishment of the great end aimed at. More brave hearts and sturdy arms were wanted, and regiment after regiment was speedily added to your ranks, until you now number over 500,000 men! The length of the enlistment was, alas! too short; and it was announced that perhaps services for three years, instead of three months, would be required from you. But this only increased your ardour, and you have determined that your breasts shall be bared for the protection of your country as long as she shall need.

Soldiers, when summoned from the mountains of Western Virginia to take command of the Army of the Potomac, I felt overwhelmed with mingled surprise and gratitude for the signal honour thus conferred upon me; but the pleasant burden was doubly increased when upon the retirement of General Scott—the war-worn warrior of our country's battles—the full command of the armies of the United States devolved upon me. Hesitation and self-distrust might well accompany the assumption of so vast a responsibility, but, placing my trust in God, and for the rest confiding to your loyalty, discipline, and courage, I put my hand to the plough, and, Heaven helping me, I will never look back until our country's flag floats triumphantly over every foot of her soil, or my body lies stiffening upon the field of strife.

For some months past you have, by constant drills, skirmishes, reviews, and other means, been prepared for the grand contest, the opening of which now depends entirely upon the movements or designs of the enemy, and may, therefore, come at any moment. The inexperience and treachery that in the opening of the present campaign caused your reverses have been, as far as human judgment could direct, successfully combated; the first by continual practice, and the last by continual vigilance.

Soldiers, our cause is just, and God is on our side. The decisive moment is rapidly approaching, the notes of the bugle may soon ring in your ears. And, soldiers, when the bugle does call you to action, then let every man, taking his comrade's hand, swear by the days of '76, and by the dear ones at home, to press onward! right onward! to victory or the grave. Remember, also, even amidst the darkest carnage of the battle-field, for what you are fighting; remember that you are not mere executioners, but generous, noble-hearted warriors, battling only for the laws of the land, and not for gain or conquest.

Soldiers, when you have accomplished all that is required of you—when your bayonets have enforced obedience to the Constitution and laws throughout the length and breadth of the land, and have rescued your brethren from the deeply-laid plans and artful machinations of a few designing traitors—then you will feel the proud satisfaction of having faithfully preserved the hallowed Ark of the Covenant left to us as a precious inheritance by Washington and his illustrious compeers. And in future years, when chance or fortune may scatter you throughout your own and other lands, men will point to you and say, "He is a brave man; he was of the army of the Union."

Soldiers, comrades, I have said enough. I feel proud of you. I know you are brave; you are patriots; you will conquer or you will die!"

STATE OF THE CONFEDERATE ARMY.

The *Richmond Examiner* of the 3rd of January gives the following gloomy picture of the state of the Confederate army on the Potomac:—

The present condition of our army is a cause of severe and painful anxiety. The courage of our troops is not abated; the eagerness for the fray is not relaxed, and yet demoralisation is creeping in, we fully believe, from the insane and reckless neglect of the Government to sustain and to cultivate the spirit of our soldiery. There is too much drunkenness among the officers on the Potomac, and too much vacant idling among the men. We are informed as a positive fact that in the majority of the army on the Potomac the practice of regimental drills has fallen into complete disuse. This alone would be sufficient to demoralise any army in circumstances such as ours. The drill is not only essential for schooling the soldier, it fulfils other vastly important and essential purposes. It develops and educates the physique, fortifies the soldier against disease, and, what is perhaps the most important moral consideration of all, gives him occupation for a portion of his time each day, and protects him, at least measurably, against the cancerworm of the army—ennui. What can be predicted but utter demoralisation for an army whose condition is that of tens of thousands of men living in utter idleness, crowding in their tents, with no other occupation than what is afforded by the greasy pack of cards that is the inevitable inmate of every tent, or the yellow-covered novel, whose

wretched and perhaps filthy entertainment has more than once poned the rounds of the company? We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that the army is becoming a name of terror and dread to the minds of our citizens. The newspapers are still filled with advertisements of bounties to "substitutes," although the War Department has adopted a rule restricting the number of substitutes to one in each company. The rates paid for substitutes are enormous. We are informed that they average from 200 dollars to 250 dollars; and we have been told of a recent instance where 1500 dollars was paid. Why is it that to-day the Government reckons not what it reads, and tolerates habits of intemperance among officers and the disease of regimental drills in our army on the Potomac? Evidences stare us in the face of the unwillingness of men to accept the life of famine, dirt, and vacant idleness in the Army.

IRELAND.

BARON DE CAMIN.—This individual, whose appearance as an anti-Popery lecturer is always associated with riot, has visited Enniskillen and produced no little excitement there. On the first night the Roman Catholics prevented him from lecturing, but on the second night the Protestants organised themselves into offensive corps, and ejected the Baron's opponents from the meeting. Serious disturbance occurred on both occasions, and the Roman Catholics vented their ill will by breaking the windows of several Protestant inhabitants. Summonses, resulting in a week's imprisonment to several persons and a month's to others, were heard by the magistrates.

SHIPWRECK.—PERILOUS VOYAGE OF A BOAT'S CREW.—On Friday morning week a boat with eight men arrived at Clogher Head, about seven miles from Drogheda, having been driven before the gale all night previously from the coast of Wicklow, where the vessel to which they belonged, the *Crisis*, of Liverpool, went down during the storm which then prevailed. The *Crisis*, a barque of nearly 1000 tons burden, sailed from Liverpool for Singapore, with a general cargo, but, having been swept away in the storm, was dashed upon the bank at Arklow. The crew had barely time to escape in two boats, the one referred to and another containing the captain (Thompson), mate, and nine men, of which, by the latest information, no accounts had been received. The men were in a very forlorn condition when they got in. On their arrival they were treated with great hospitality by Captain Bernard, of the Coastguard Station, and the people of Clogher Head.

SCOTLAND.

MURDER.—A dreadful murder was committed in a cottage near Knockmaling, in the parish of Kells, Galloway, on Monday, the 13th inst. The victim is an unmarried woman, who resided in the cottage with two brothers, who were away at their work when the crime was perpetrated. She was discovered by a neighbour, about midday, lying insensible on the floor, in a pool of blood, a heavy iron instrument and a knife being beside her. She died that night about ten o'clock, without being able to give any information as to the perpetrator of the deed. A woman who lived in an adjoining cottage has been apprehended on suspicion and consigned to Kirkcubright Gaol. Some of this woman's clothes, saturated with blood, were discovered in her house, and this and other circumstances led to her apprehension.

ANOTHER YELVERTON CASE.—Mrs. Yelverton has raised an action against Major Yelverton's brother-in-law, a Scotch barrister of the name of Walker. It seems that an uncle of Major Yelverton, whose children will succeed to the Aronmore peerage in case the Major should have no legitimate issue, has espoused the cause of Mrs. (Longworth) Yelverton, and the lady is now staying with him. Mr. Walker, jealous for the honour of his wife's family, addressed a smart letter to her uncle, characterising the lady in no measured terms, and charging the uncle with all sorts of sinister motives in taking up her cause. One would expect the uncle to take up this quarrel; but he has handed the matter over to the lady, who has raised an action in the Scotch courts for slander. The case is expected to furnish much amusement, and no little scandal, to the lieges. Mrs. Yelverton claims £3000 damages and costs.

THE PROVINCES.

THE BILSTON SAVINGS BANK.—The defalcations in the Bilston Savings Bank turn out to be quite a curiosity in the annals of crime. Nothing could be simpler than the mode in which the money was abstracted. The books of the depositors were kept with scrupulous accuracy, but in making up the totals Mr. Fletcher was in the habit of returning £100 less than he had taken, and of charging £100 more than he had paid away. The curious thing was that these false accounts were usually signed by a manager, who could evidently have never summed up the columns. Mr. Fild Pratt, who had gone over the books and gave these explanations, added that the question was still under examination whether the managers could not be made liable.

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.—On the 12th inst., while a labourer, George Gatechiff, was engaged in breaking stone for the highway at Thornholme, near Bridlington, he found, on cracking a large grey cobble, a cannon-ball firmly imbedded in the centre of it. The ball is in good preservation, weighs 5lb., is apparently of not very ancient production, and probably had been shot into the cliff at Filey (whence the stone was taken), the clay in the cliff having been formed into stone, or petrified, by the action of the water, either from the land or the sea.

SHOCKING TREATMENT OF A CABIN-BOY.—At the Hull Police Court, Captain Bentz, of the Russian frigate *Urho*, was charged with ill-treating a cabin-boy, eleven years of age. The vessel left Riga for Hull on the 29th of December last, and on the voyage the Captain beat the boy at various times all over the body with a thick rope, and ultimately he used the cabin fire-poker, and inflicted upon him such severe injuries that the mate on several occasions remonstrated, but without effect. On the vessel being boarded in the Humber by a Hull pilot that officer's attention was called to the treatment the lad had received, the barbarity of which was so apparent that he at once informed the police of the circumstance. The Russian Consul was also communicated with, and he went on board the vessel and saw the lad. He was in a most emaciated state, and was covered with sores and bruises. The medical officers at the infirmary, upon examining him, gave it as their opinion that he could not possibly recover for six weeks. The magistrate said, as none of the ill-treatment had taken place within his jurisdiction, he could not interfere, but he hoped the Russian Consul would take care to report the case to the Russian authorities.

LEAPING FROM A TRAIN.—A few days ago a very rash attempt to escape from justice was made by a young fellow named James Redman, as he was being conveyed, together with another youth, from Brighton to Lewes, for the purpose of being lodged in the county gaol to await their trial on a charge of theft. When the train reached the Hope in the Valley, near Lewes, Mitchell, the officer, who sat opposite his prisoners, happened to turn his head away from them for a moment, and when he looked back again the door was open, and Redman in the act of springing from the carriage. Mitchell made an attempt to catch him, but in vain, for in less than a second Redman was turning over and over in the air, alighting apparently on his head and left shoulder, and then tumbling down the embankment, which is here three or four yards high. As soon as the train reached the station the officer stated the circumstance, the engine was sent back to the spot, and the prisoner was found in the charge of some workmen, apparently but little injured. He was perfectly able to walk. He was at once taken to Lewes, where Mr. Turner, surgeon, said that, beyond the shock and a few scratches, he had sustained no injury.

ALARMING ACCIDENT AT THE THEATRE ROYAL, LIVERPOOL.—One evening last week, during the ballet scene in the pantomime at the above theatre, great commotion was suddenly excited by a shriek from the wings. The alarm of fire was immediately raised, and had its usual effect upon the audience, whose eyes in great perturbation. A gentleman, however, came forward and reassured the house, which was persuaded without difficulty into its wonted tranquillity. The occasion of the alarm, however, was very serious. Miss Power's ballet dress ignited while she was standing or walking backwards close to one of the side-lights, and she was immediately enveloped in flames. These being quickly extinguished, and the young lady's dress, or what remained of it, having been rapidly removed, she was attended in the green-room by Dr. Rogerson. Miss Power was very severely burnt, chiefly on the arms and shoulders, but generally all over the upper part of the body. A little child was also burnt on the arm; its burn was immediately dressed, and the little thing, as well as Miss Power, has quite recovered from the effects of the accident.

THE BRADFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE FRENCH TREATY.—In their report presented to the annual meeting of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce on Monday afternoon the council of that body give the results of a three months' experience of the working of the French Treaty as regards the worsted fabrics of Bradford and district. The report stated that, "although the large amount of business done during that period may not be a criterion for a continuance at the same rate, still the council incline to think that the expectations of the most sanguine will be greatly surpassed. Hitherto the French demand has been confined to a very few articles of the manufactures of this district; but it cannot but be expected that a better knowledge on the part of the French of our capabilities, and a more intimate knowledge on our part of their wants, will end in a much wider range of articles manufactured in this district being consumed by the thirty-seven millions with whom we are now for the first time brought into close and immediate business contact. . . . The council have the more pleasure in congratulating the Chamber upon the highly-satisfactory results of this treaty, as it reflects have been first at the moment when the ordinary trade with the United States of America had become paralysed by the effects of the civil war now unhappily raging in that country."

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

OSWESLTON.—The nomination has been fixed for Tuesday, the 28th inst. The polling will take place on the 31st inst., and the declaration will be made known on the 3rd of February. The friends and supporters of both candidates (Sir Henry Dashwood, Bart., and Colonel Fane) are still working with the utmost will and determination.

LISCONS.—It both parties are to be believed, never was a more successful canvass carried on in this city; both are equally certain of success, and therefore it may fairly be presumed that the contest will be a close and exciting one. It is generally felt that Mr. Bramley-Moore will be returned notwithstanding the confidence with which Mr. Hinde Palmer's committee speak.

SHOREHAM.—An address has just been issued by Sir Percy Burrell, Bart., son of the late Sir Charles Burrell, who so long represented the borough of Shoreham and rape of Bramber in Parliament, offering himself as a candidate for the vacant seat. He says:—"Living as he (whom we mourn—the late member) did amongst you, our interests were identical, and I shall hope to follow his footsteps in necessary attention to your local interests, which the varied character of the constituency requires from your representative." No opposition has as yet been hinted.

GRIMSBY.—In consequence of the death of the noble Earl of Yarborough and the elevation of his son, Lord Worsley, M.P. for the borough, to a seat in the Upper House, addresses have been published by John Chapman, Esq. (Conservative), vice-chairman of the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, and George F. Heneage, Esq. (Liberal), late M.P. for Lincoln, and formerly M.P. for Grimsby. Others are hinted at, so at present the election is likely to be a contested one.

THE TUSCARORA.—On Thursday afternoon week an American man-of-war, flying the Federal flag, was observed from Portsmouth passing through Spithead; and intelligence was very shortly conveyed to the Port Admiral that the stranger had anchored off Osborne. This could not be endured; so Sir Henry Bruce dispatched the *Pigmy*, his steam-tender, with civil instructions that the interloper should either proceed to Cowes or return to the usual anchorage at Spithead. The hint was taken, as a matter of course, and our friend the *Tuscarora*, for she it was, made her way up again to her old position off the docks. We are compelled to attribute the act of the Federal Captain to ignorance, for we cannot conceive that any man occupying the rank of a gentleman would willingly have, at a moment like the present, intruded himself into a position directly under the observation of the mourning Queen of England; but, at the same time, we are bound to say that this officer must be wanting in observation. He has been long enough in English waters to see that her Majesty's subjects in passing Osborne—that once happy abode—go their way, as it were, with "bated breath;" all bustle is stilled; the duties of the vessels which steal their way along the Solent are carried on by dumb-show rather than by word of mouth. Such being the facts, we can only express our astonishment at the great want of delicacy which has in this instance been exhibited. The *Nashville* and *Tuscarora* still occupy their respective berths at Southampton.

DISTRESS IN LYONS.—A fearful amount of distress prevails among the silkweavers at Lyons. Owing to the war in America and other causes nearly 100,000 men are out of work, and enduring the greatest hardships and suffering. The charitable institutions of the district are quite unequal to meet the emergency, and a subscription has accordingly been opened in Paris. Lyons, unfortunately, does not stand alone. In all the manufacturing towns there is a great scarcity of employment, and trade is nearly at a standstill. The evil appears to be too great to be met by private benevolence, and it is suggested that on assembling the Corps Legislatif shall make a public grant in order to alleviate it.

A JEWISH FAMILY AT TETUAN.

NOT only by physical peculiarities and unmistakable modes of life do the Jewish people retain their national characteristics, but whenever opportunity offers the real Oriental tendencies of their race are developed; and there are not wanting indications, even amongst those of them who increase and multiply in European cities, of that love of display and actual reveling in personal adornment which belongs to every part of their history since they came out of Egypt. It is only in the East, perhaps, that any adequate occasion enables them to indulge in all the rich variety of colour and elaboration of ornament which are, amongst them, the indication of wealth and station; but the fortunate amongst them who have been able to attain distinction in a country where such tokens are appreciated at once assume these marks of success and array themselves gloriously.

All the towns of the African coast count amongst their inhabitants a very considerable contingent of Jewish families, who, having been reorganised into tribes, live amidst their Moorish neighbours without intermingling with them, and continue to guard their own ceremonies and distinct nationality with the most scrupulous jealousy. Their women are distinguished by the striking differences of their features, and by that strange beauty for which so many of them are remarkable. The whole type, so faithfully preserved by alliances only amongst their own tribes, can never be mistaken for that of their adopted country; and even their costumes are but modified to suit the exigencies of climate, without any real abandonment of their distinctive fashion.

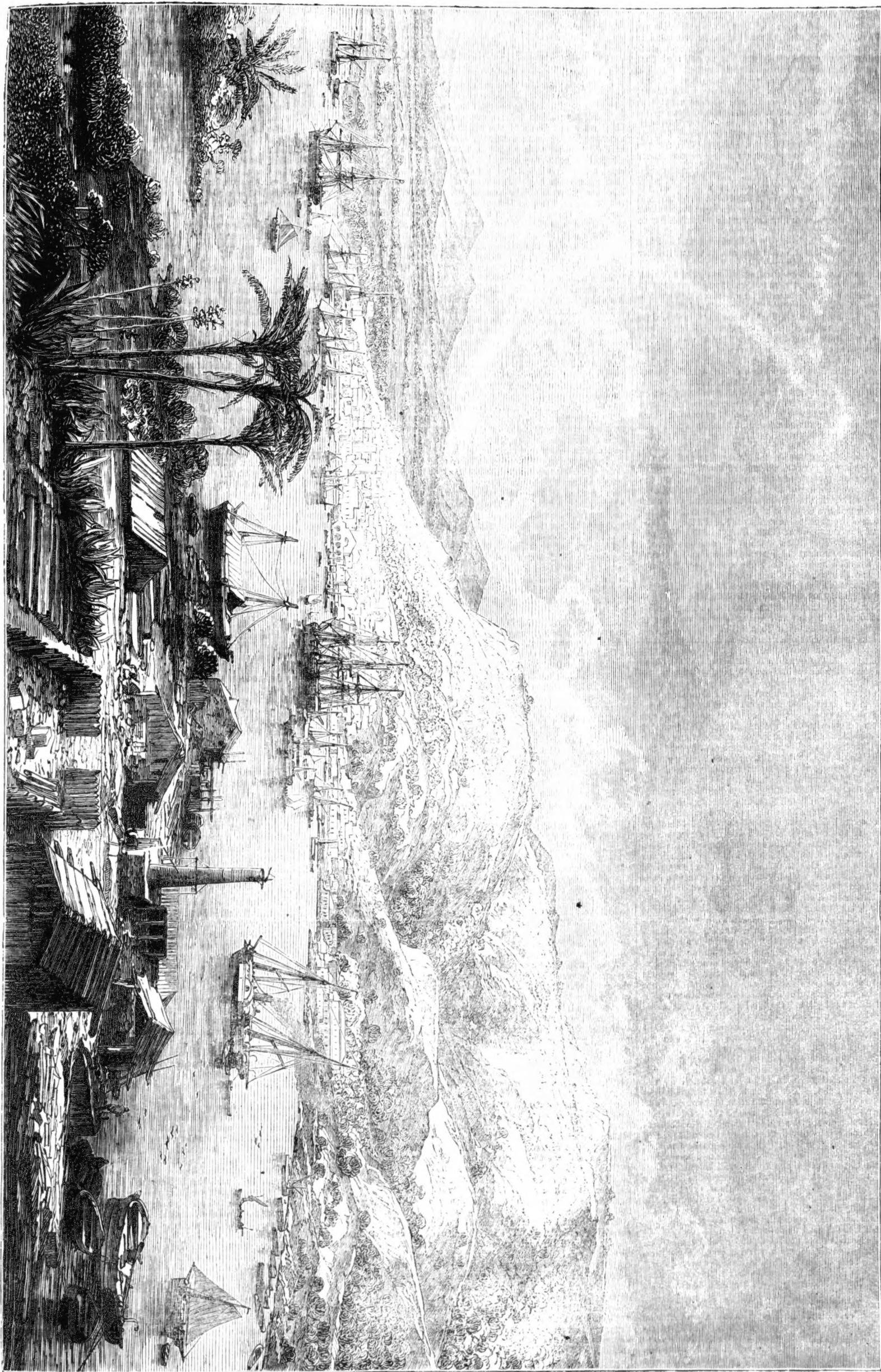
The details of the Jewish quarters vary according to the district in which they are situated; but in all there are the same narrow and dirty streets; the same low, decaying doors, furnished with padlocks; the same barred windows, which seem intended rather to afford an asylum for fugitives who dread discovery than to afford the means of procuring light and air. These conditions seem to have become inevitable, in consequence of the position occupied by the scattered nation which, having to seek an asylum in lands where they have been only tolerated while they afforded an easy prey for the cupidity of tyrannical rulers, learned to make wealth a weapon and its concealment a necessity. It is true that it is long since these conditions have existed in most European cities, but the evidences of them have never entirely disappeared. The capitalists of Frankfurt are no longer regarded as birds of prey, or, at all events, are not treated as were the usurers who took in pawn family jewels, the gold and silver smiths who advanced money upon the gems of the crown, the patient capitalists who furnished money to the titled soldiers who needed it to make promotion certain—the birds of ill omen who, scenting out family misfortunes, exacted terrible interest for crafty loans. At Constantinople, amidst the ruinous wooden houses of Djerbe, live timid speculators, hawking, penuriously enough, their scanty capital in unknown speculations, but often managing it with such ability that they frequently amass enormous fortunes. In Venice the Jewish race has now almost disappeared, but they were once the very glory of the great city. The Ghetto remains, but its streets are almost deserted, save by ragged women leading half-clad and sickly children, and with the national features almost obscured by want and misery.

At Genoa the descendants of the wealthy merchants and adventurers still go down to the quays to watch the arrival and departure of the vessels of all ages, and are acquainted with every detail of freight and equipment. They may be easily recognised, not alone for the keenness with which they take advantage of every variation in the market, but from their Armenian robes, their fur caps, and the quick, glittering eye, hooked nose, and pointed beard, which would serve to distinguish them in any dress.

At Morocco, reunited in a quarter which is in itself a city, Mohammedan intolerance has imposed on them many hard conditions; while at Tetuan, Tangier, Rabat, Larrache, Ereilla, and Mogadore—indeed, in all the cities of the coast and many of the interior—it is forbidden to a Jew to pass a night out of his own locality. He is never allowed to travel by means of horses, and must wear no other covering for the feet than the ordinary slippers. But, apart from the indignities to which the Israelites are exposed from the fanatics, they enjoy in most of these cities an amount of luxury which is rarely attained by their countrymen in Northern Europe. The costumes of the women surpass in magnificence anything easily appreciated except by an Oriental mind; and it is no unusual thing for the head of a family, parsimonious in other respects, to part with large sums to be expended in the equipment of his daughters, who, perhaps, after all, look upon their personal belongings only as a part of the rich furniture, valuable jewels, and costly silk which may be found in many of the houses. Our engraving is taken from a drawing made at Tetuan in the house of one of the rich Jewish merchants of that city.



A JEWISH FAMILY AT TETUAN.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. YRIARTE.)



VIEW OF THE TOWN AND HARBOUR OF TAMPICO, SHOWING A PORTION OF THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH FLEETS.

THE EXPEDITION TO MEXICO.

THE combined intervention in Mexico is daily assuming an aspect of greater importance. The prompt and effective proceedings of Spain in Mexico appear to be viewed with some jealousy by the French Government, who, in addition to the 6000 men already sent, have determined to dispatch a further force, about 8000 strong, which is to be under a Major-General, who will take the command in chief of the allied forces. The whole of the arrangement, it is affirmed, has the sanction of our Government. It is asserted that the allied Powers have determined to adopt decided measures and to occupy the Mexican capital until a regular and permanent Government is established with the free consent of the people. A rumour, which has been several times set afloat of late, is again revived. This rumour is to the effect that there is an intention to place Mexico under a constitutional King, to be chosen from a European Royal family, and that overtures have been made to Austria offering the throne to the Archduke Maximilian as a compensation for the surrender of Venice. If the last condition is a sine qua non, there can be little doubt that the negotiations with Austria will fail, and some other Sovereign must be selected; a result which, perhaps, the Mexicans would have little reason to regret, as a King of the Hapsburg race is little likely to be deeply imbued with constitutional principles or to govern in a constitutional manner. President Juarez is said to have declared that he would resist Spanish domination in Mexico to the last extremity.

The latest advices from Mexico bring the following details of the arrival of the Spanish expedition at Vera Cruz, and of the surrender of that city by the Mexican authorities:—

"The inhabitants were thrown into great agitation on the morning of the 8th of December by the appearance of a Spanish squadron in the roadstead, composed of two frigates and nine steam-transports. The impression produced was the stronger that hopes had been entertained that, if foreign intervention could not be avoided, it would be at least deferred by diplomatic negotiations long enough to give time for preparations of resistance. An immediate attack was at first expected. The iron gates of the port were closed, and, while the people hastened towards the gates leading into the country, the authorities employed themselves in having all the warlike stores removed; a state of siege was proclaimed, and the National Guard was called out. The agitation afterwards somewhat subsided when the Spanish squadron was seen coming to an anchor at Anton Lizardo, twelve miles from the town; but a kind of riot took place in the evening, and the Government having had the Spanish vessel Maria Concepcion, which had been seized last year, brought close to the mole, the populace set fire to her. The disarmament of the fort of Saint Jean d'Ulloa was in the meantime and during the whole of the following day continued, and of its 132 pieces of artillery about sixty were removed. In the morning of the 10th the second Spanish division, consisting of thirteen vessels, joined those in the offing, and on the following day Admiral Rubalcaba, who commanded the fleet, informed the Captains of the French and English vessels, the *Foudre* and the *Ariadne*, at anchor at Sacrificios, that he intended to summon the Governor of Vera Cruz to deliver up the town and fort within twenty-four hours or take the consequences of a refusal. It was at the same time agreed between the Spanish Admiral and the Captain of the *Foudre* that, until the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief of the French forces, the Spanish troops should protect the lives and property of the French residents on the Mexican territory. It was also agreed that the French Consul and the French Commandant should receive notice when an attack was to be made; that the French Admiral, on his arrival, might send a number of troops into the town and fortress equal to that of the Spaniards; that the sums found in the public coffers, as well as those received at the Customs during the Spanish occupation, should be placed in the hands of a mixed commission appointed by the Ministers of the three allied Courts; that no fort or public establishment should be destroyed unless such a course was necessary for defence; that the blockade established against Mexican vessels should not in any way affect French ones, which might enter and carry on their commerce as previously; that the Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish forces, even when in possession of the town and fortress, should not advance into the interior, nor conclude any treaty with the Mexican Government without the participation of the French Government; and, lastly, that all the rights of France should be reserved the same as though she took part in the capture of the place. The Captain of the *Ariadne* agreed to the above conditions, and, in the absence of precise instructions from his Government, announced his intention of abstaining from taking part in the attack. This last-named eventuality was, however, rendered unnecessary, for a proclamation of the Mexican General announced that he intended to abandon the town, and prohibited the inhabitants from supplying any provisions to the Spaniards. In consequence of a heavy gale of wind, it was not until the 14th that Admiral Rubalcaba could send his summons to the Governor, and as soon as the arrival of that document was known the operation of evacuation was hastened. The Mexican General Uruga took possession of all the houses in the town, and ordered all the owners of cattle in the neighbourhood to remove them, under pain of death, to at least eight miles into the interior. All the roads leading from the town were incumbered with the panic-stricken inhabitants; the houses in the town were barricaded, and the foreigners expected a pillage. On the 15th the reply of the Mexican authorities, declaring that the town and fort would be evacuated that day at noon, reached the Admiral, when the Spanish vessels were immediately brought closer to the town. A deputation of the *ayuntamiento* were in waiting at the gates, but the weather again becoming bad no landing took place. On the 16th the Admiral came close under the Fort of Saint Jean d'Ulloa with the steam-frigate *Isabel la Católica*, where he was joined in the evening by the Don Francisco d'Assis, having General Grasset on board. In the morning of the 17th the Spaniards entered the town, where, as well as in the fort, they found many pieces of cannon which had not been spiked, ammunition, and a considerable quantity of stores. At noon the Spanish flag was hoisted at Vera Cruz, and saluted by the Admiral with twenty-one guns. The other Spanish troops immediately commenced landing with their ammunition and stores. The town had been evacuated by almost all the inhabitants, and travellers arriving from Mexico found the roads incumbered with carts abandoned, cannon thrown into the ditches, heaps of baggage, and soldiers without arms, clothing, or food. In such a state of misery the population anticipate the appearance of guerrillas and apprehend outrages, from which the arrival of the French and English troops will be their surest protection, and the coming of the two squadrons is therefore looked for with anxiety. There is, indeed, every reason to think that the well-meaning part of the nation will, under the existing state of anarchy, hail with pleasure any measure which, while respecting their independence, will secure to Mexico in a durable manner conditions of order and security."

Marshal Serrano, the Governor of Cuba, under whose direction the premature movement of the Spanish portion of the expedition took place, is said to have tendered his resignation; why, is not stated. The Cabinet of Madrid, however, though they may have blamed the Marshal's conduct as hasty, have declined to accept his resignation.

Tampico, or Santa Ana de Tamaulipas, of the harbour of which we this week publish a View, and which is said to have been also abandoned by the Mexican troops, is a seaport town of the department, and 215 miles N.N.W. of Vera Cruz, on the south shore of the Lake of Tampico. It has a population of about 7000, and is regularly laid out on a slope, has military and naval hospitals, and well supplied markets. The town is better drained than most South American cities, and is now much more healthy than it was formerly. It used to do a considerable trade in the export of specie, hides, tallow, bones, and jerked beef. The temporary occupation of Tampico

was one of the original intentions of the expedition to Mexico; but the conduct of the Governors of that country are likely to compel—indeed, have already compelled—the allied Powers to extend their plans so far as even to contemplate, as already mentioned, the occupation of the city of Mexico itself until arrangements satisfactory to them have been made.

TERRIBLE COLLIERY ACCIDENT.

TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY LIVES LOST.

ONE of the most terrible accidents which have ever been recorded took place at Hartley New Pit, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Thursday morning week. It appears that the pumping-engine connected with this colliery is the largest employed for such work in the north of England. The beam of the engine weighed forty tons, and on the morning in question it suddenly broke in two at the pivot, the one half descending with a fearful momentum down the shaft of the pit, killing in its way several men who were being hoisted up in the cage, carrying with it the timberwork, bratticing, and everything that came in its way. The mass of iron and woodwork which fell into the pit completely blocked up the passage, and, as there was but one shaft, 215 poor fellows—men and lads—who were still in the workings, were immured in a living tomb. The immediate danger, however, was not imminent; for they had it in their power to get beyond reach of the water, and there was some sort of ventilation. The subjoined details will be read with a melancholy interest:—

New Hartley Colliery, where this sad disaster has occurred, is close to the Hartley Junction on the Blyth and Tyne Railway, and belongs to Messrs. Carr Brothers. The work is carried on under the superintendence of Mr. Charles Carr, the head owner, and Mr. Humble, the resident owner. The colliery comprises three seams—the high main, the yard seam, and the low main; but the mining operations have been recently confined to the low or steam-coal main. The workings have been carried on by a single shaft passing through the yard seam, at a depth of about 70 fathoms, and penetrating to the low seam, which lies about 100 fathoms below the surface. The shaft was divided into two equal sections by a substantial wooden brattice running through its entire length. One half was used as an upcast and the other as a downcast pit, this arrangement answering the same purpose in connection with the ventilation of the mine as the duplicate shafts which are employed in many collieries. Some time ago a communication was established between the low main and the yard seam independently of the shaft, by means of an air-staple, and within this, on the suggestion of Mr. Dunn, the Government inspector, a ladder was placed, so as to afford an easy access from the lowest to the middle stage of the mine. Another staple affords a passage from the high main to the surface; but between the yard seam and the high main there appears to be no communication with the exception of the shaft. Closely adjoining the shaft, on the east side, stands a substantial stone structure, containing the machinery employed for keeping the pit clear of water. The pumping-engine is one of the largest to be met with in the coal trade, with a power equal to 400 horses.

The accident that killed the five men in the shaft, and which imprisoned the 215 men and lads in the mine, occurred about half-past ten on Thursday morning. The greater body of the miners in the pit had gone in at one o'clock in the morning, and were just about being relieved to come to bank by the back shift, which went in at nine o'clock. In fact, two sets of men of the first shift had got to bank, and the third shift was "riding" or coming up the shaft in the cage, and had got hauled halfway up when the beam of the pumping-engine overhanging the shaft at the bunk suddenly and without any warning snapped in two, the projecting outer half, weighing upwards of twenty tons, falling with a tremendous crash right down the centre of the shaft. It struck the top of the brattice, and carried the woodwork and timber, which extended from the top to the bottom of the shaft, with it down the shaft. It encountered the ascending cage, bringing up eight miners, halfway. The survivors of the party state that they first observed something shoot past them with the velocity of a thunderbolt, and presently found themselves overwhelmed by a perfect hail of broken beams and planks. The iron cage in which they were ascending was shattered to pieces by the shock, and two of the unfortunate men were killed on the spot, and carried far down among the ruins. Of the remaining six three survived for some time, and the others were ultimately rescued. All, however, suffered more or less severely from the falling timber, as well as the privations they were exposed to during the twelve weary hours that elapsed before assistance could be conveyed to them. The mass of rubbish completely filled the lower part of the shaft, so as to cut off all chance of escape by that egress for the men and boys employed in the low main. Had they been confined to that portion of the mine serious fears might have been entertained for their safety, considering the rapidity with which the water must accumulate on the stoppage of the pumping apparatus. They, however, had it in their power to pass through the staple leading to the yard seam, and, having gained this higher stage of the mine, it was hoped that they might be able to hold out till assistance could reach them.

The names of the men killed in the shaft are Ralph Robson, George Sharp, George Sharp (aged sixteen years, his son), Robert Bewick, and William Brown. The bodies of the two Sharps and of Robson and Brown were recovered on Saturday.

A beautiful instance of the self-devotion and simple piety of an interesting section of the miners was displayed in the pitshaft after the accident. Two of the men who were knocked out of the cage were partly buried in the ruins which choked the shaft. The elder Sharp could be heard praying among the rubbish where he was buried. Thomas Watson, who was hanging by the broken cage, heard the moans and prayers of his unfortunate companion, and, though much bruised by the wood that had struck him, he dropped himself down the pump on to the rubbish in which poor Sharp was buried, and prayed with him until he expired, though every moment Watson himself expected to be engulfed where he stood. After Sharp's death, Watson scrambled back to the cage, where he hung until about seven o'clock on Thursday evening, when he and his other two companions were rescued.

Of course, as soon as the accident was known, messengers were dispatched to the neighbouring collieries, and all the best men connected with them were sent to the rescue. The gin and jack were rigged, and wrought by an engine, as also the crab, wrought by men and horses. It was determined not to send the timber and rubbish up to the bank, but to pass it up by means of the gin and jack to the upper seam, which was not blocked. But on descending the shaft it was found that only two men could work at the obstruction at one time, and in doing so they had to be slung with ropes, and the process is extremely dangerous and tedious.

Throughout Friday the scene in the neighbourhood of the pit was exceedingly touching. The intelligence of the calamity had become widely diffused throughout the district, and from all quarters, on foot and by train, parties of men and women, belonging almost entirely to the mining population, kept pouring in towards the colliery. In the afternoon there must have been several thousand persons of all ages and both sexes on and about the bank. The great centre of attraction was, of course, the pit mouth, and the police had some difficulty in keeping the bank top sufficiently clear to allow the work to be efficiently carried on; but over the whole assemblage there reigned an expression of deep sadness as of people standing, so to speak, under the shadow of a great disaster. On all sides groups and knots of people were seen sheltering themselves from the biting frosty air behind every sheltering projection about the buildings. Numbers of women, many of them having passed the dreary, cold, long night exposed to the inclemency of the weather, their sense of physical suffering being completely neutralised by the anguish of mind under which they laboured, were seen around. The excitement

aroused by the first intelligence of the catastrophe had on Saturday greatly subsided and been succeeded by a feeling of patient, hopeful expectation. The wives of the jeopardised men passed from place to place turning their wan, tear-swollen faces from one friend to another, in the hope of gleaming some confirmation of their aspirations for the safety of those dear to them. One poor woman named Oliver had a husband and six children, besides a boy whom they have brought up, in the pit. Her anguish may be imagined. Others were similarly situated, though not, perhaps, to the same extent. Numbers of able and experienced miners hurried in from all the surrounding neighbourhood, and offered their services with a nobleness of mind and absence of selfishness most gratifying to witness.

On Saturday night the intelligence from below was less satisfactory. Mr. Coulson, master sinker of Durham, an extremely able man in his line, who had been down the shaft all day, sent up a somewhat unsatisfactory report. He stated that the obstruction in the shaft had become more solid and wedged together as they got down. The men imprisoned below were heard during the course of the morning working, and, as the pitmen termed it, "jowling" in the shaft. The noise ceased during the day, and at night several attempts were made to signal them from above the mass of obstruction, but no reply was obtained. But it was explained that, as the men would not go out of the seam to work at the obstruction in the shaft, they had probably removed all they could, and then retired more into the workings. The managers of the pit felt confident that there was not the least cause for alarm, unless the men should suffer from the effects of foul air; and this apprehension, as the event proved, was unhappily too well founded. The work of clearing away the obstructions in the shaft was continued night and day with unremitting vigour; but the men engaged in this praiseworthy, but difficult and dangerous, task felt the effects of the gases which had been generated below, and were compelled to suspend operations till a ventilating apparatus, composed of cloth and called a cloth brattice, could be arranged. This was completed on Wednesday afternoon; and the shaft being cleared to some extent of gas, the terrible tragedy was revealed in all its horrors. Three pitmen (volunteers) went down, penetrated the obstruction, got into the yard seam by the engine-drift, and found men lying dead at the furnace. They pushed their way through. The air was bad. Within the door they found a large body of men sleeping the sleep of death. They retreated, and came to bank with the appalling intelligence.

Mr. Humble, viewer of the colliery, and Mr. Hall, immediately went down, and returned in an hour and a half. Both had to be taken off the sling, seriously affected by gas. They had been all through the works, and found no living man, but a hecatomb of dead bodies. The bulk of the bodies were lying in the gallery near the shaft. An affecting report, which has touched all hearts, has been made by them. Families are lying in groups; children in the arms of their fathers; brothers with brothers. Most of them looked placid as if asleep, but higher up, near the furnace, some tall stout men seemed to have died hard. The corn-bins were all cleared. Some few of the men had a little corn in their pockets. A pony was lying dead among the men, but untouched.

Several volunteers afterwards penetrated the workings and confirmed this statement. Nearly all of them, however, were brought to bank seriously affected by gas.

There was great danger of more men losing their lives. Medical men, of whom there were large numbers at the colliery, held a council at eight o'clock on Wednesday evening, and by their advice no more men were allowed to go down until the ventilation should be improved.

It will be some time before the bodies can be brought to bank.

A telegram was received from her Majesty on Wednesday afternoon asking intelligence as to the hopes of saving the men.

A meeting of pitmen was held on Wednesday afternoon, when it was resolved that, instead of suspending work, as is usual on such occasions, the men in the neighbouring mines should continue their labour, and so be enabled to contribute to the relief of the families of the sufferers by the calamity.

The coroner for the district has held an inquest on the bodies of the men killed by the falling of the portion of the broken engine-beam, when a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The building begins now to assume such an appearance of completeness that no serious doubt need be entertained of its being ready for her Majesty's Commissioners by the 12th of next month—ready, that is to say, in all its most important points. Some delay will possibly occur about the parts in the immediate neighbourhood of the domes, as the immense scaffolding cannot take less than a fortnight to remove; but, as the reception of goods will not commence until after the 1st of March, practically a very decided completion is not of great consequence. From the exterior it would be difficult to say that any work at all was being proceeded with inside, except where the men are heard and seen busy about the domes, and the east and west entrances.

All the ribs of the eastern dome are now completely erected and fitted to the ring at the top, and a considerable portion of the cross bracing and ties is being fixed. Very shortly it may be expected that the glazing will commence. In the western dome the ribs are all raised, but they are not yet fixed. The roof has been thrown over the whole of the northern courts, and the greater part of it is glazed and protected from the weather; preparations are being made to floor them. The staircases which lead to the southern galleries are finished, and thus access is obtained to the picture-galleries without the trouble of mounting a ladder. The refreshment courts are advancing very rapidly; the principals of the roof are all fixed, and plastering has commenced.

The south-western court and the galleries around it will be occupied by the French.

On the opposite side of the nave her Majesty's commissioners have determined to adopt a treatment which, as it will be of a different character to that of the French, on the south side, will have the effect of producing a sense of variety. The north-western court is parcelled out in strips to Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Russia, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. From the galleries above there will then be an opportunity of comparing the various methods in which those countries exhibit their products. The Zollverein and States of North Germany occupy the south-western transept, and the corresponding piece on the north is allotted to Austria.

The following arrangements for admission have been made by her Majesty's commissioners. Season tickets will be issued at three guineas each, and the holders will have the exclusive privilege of being present at the opening ceremony on the 1st of May.

Arrangements have also been made with her Majesty's commissioners for the International Exhibition of 1862 for the issue of joint tickets (price five guineas), conferring a personal free admission both to the Exhibition and the Royal Horticultural Garden. This ticket is to be obtained from the commissioners.

After the 21st of May, when it is understood that the high charges of the International Exhibition are to be reduced to the uniform rate of 1s. for the rest of the season, the charge for admission to the garden, except on Fridays and Saturdays, will be practically reduced to 6d. It still stands nominally at 1s., but to those who also visit the exhibition it will be reduced to 6d.

It will be observed that a holder of a season ticket of admission to the exhibition, by availing himself of this arrangement, secures, by the payment of an additional two guineas, an admission for every day throughout the year to the Horticultural Garden, a privilege which alone would cost him four guineas. An entrance to the exhibition, and one that is much desired, will thus be obtained by the new gate of the Horticultural Society in the Kensington-road; and a visitor, by paying 1s. in addition to the shilling which admits to the Horticultural Garden, obtains an admission to the exhibition.

UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION.—A lecture was delivered on Friday last by Captain J. E. Ward, R.N., Inspector of Life-boats to the National Life-boat Institution, on life-boats. After dwelling on the characteristics peculiar to all good life-boats, the gallant officer stated that during the last few years the self-righting life-boats, adopted by the National Institution, had been the means of saving more lives than life-rafts or rafts, with the loss of only nine individuals. On the other hand, the non-righting life-boats had unfortunately taken thirty-five lives out of the fifty persons that were in them on occasion of disaster.

THE ISLAND OF JERSEY.

THE Channel Islands are supposed to have been at one time held in possession by the Romans, as Caesar, in his "Commentaries," mentions some islands on the coast of Normandy in which the Britons took refuge from the exterminating sword of the invaders of their country. In proof of this, Camden, in his "Insulis Britannicus," says that the words "Jer" or "Ger," and also "Cher," are abbreviated corruptions of "Caesar," as the name of Cherbourg, a seaport of Normandy, is so called from "Casaris-burgum." Jersey, likewise—the final *e* signifying an island, as in Angles-ey, the isle of the Angles—is a corruption of Caesar's Island. Leaving such points, however, to be settled by the historical antiquary, it may be observed that Jersey, like the other Channel Islands, passed into the possession of the English with the accession of William the Conqueror to the throne, and from that period to the present has continued an appendage of the British Crown. It has frequently suffered from invasion by the French, and during the reign of Henry IV. one-half of it was in their possession for a space of six years. At the accession of Edward IV., however, in 1461, it was recovered, and until the time of Edward VI. the islanders remained unmolested by any more hostile annoyances from their Continental neighbours. Then an expedition was fitted out, and a landing effected at Boulay Bay; but the inhabitants, rising in arms, drove the enemy back to their ships, and continued still to exemplify their attachment to the English Crown. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth Sir Walter Raleigh was some time Governor of the island, when a splendid castle at the entrance of St. Helier was founded by the Virgin Queen, and her name given to it.

This fortress is one of the most striking objects which visitors behold on approaching Jersey from the sea. It stands on a mass of rugged schistose rock which is left bare at about half ebb tide, inclosed by walls, and forming a little island about a mile in circumference. It has numerous batteries and extensive barracks, with a main-guard standing upon a rock, rising singly within the castle, and offering, from its higher parts, splendid views of the Bay of St. Aubin, the town of St. Helier, and Fort Regent. Were it not that this castle is so completely commanded by this fort it might be deemed impregnable. In its armoury the fragment of a shell which burst in its powder-magazine, doing frightful injury, in the wars of the Commonwealth, may still be seen; as also a pair of huge military boots said to have been worn and left there by Charles II. when the clouds of political darkness lowered upon the fortunes of his house. What portion of the castle he and his brother James occupied is not now known; neither is it known in what part of it Sir Edward Hyde, afterwards Lord Clarendon, compiled his "History of the Rebellion," a large portion of which is said to have been composed within its walls.

Fort Regent, which now commands Elizabeth Castle, overlooks the Bay of St. Aubin, and is approached on land between two hills. The southern of these is much the smaller, and was at first selected for the erection of the citadel after a visit of the Duke of Richmond, Master of the Ordnance, in 1786. This structure, however, was never finished, and the grounds have been levelled, and other improvements made, that the batteries of the fort on the northern hill might be rendered more free to operate in case of war. The view from the ramparts of this fort comprehends the Bay of St. Aubin with the whole of the town of St. Helier and its interminable environs. On the eastern side the eye ranges over the Bay of St. Clement and a long tract of low land brought into a state of rich cultivation, bounded

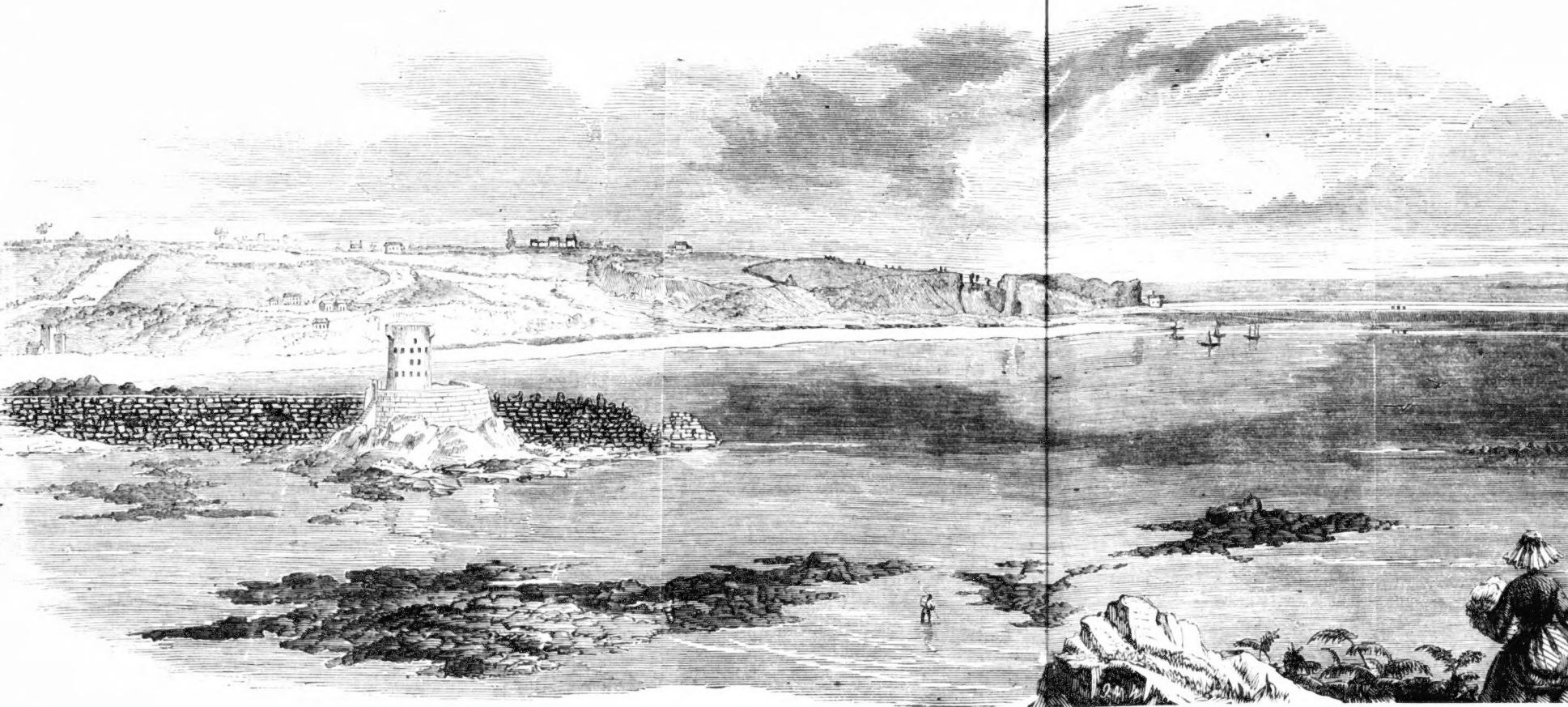
by the Castle of Mount Orgueil. This one of those relics of antiquity which is of great historical interest. Its foundation has been attributed to Julius Caesar, but with greater probability it has been set down to the days of Henry II. In the reign of King John it was a structure of importance, and from time to time it has been the habitation of various personages of historical note. Charles II. occupied some of its apartments for several months, as did Sir Philip de Carteret, under Charles I. The celebrated Puritan Prynne, of reforming notoriety, was confined in it for three years, when he composed his poem entitled

"A Poetic Description of Mount Orgueil Castle, in the Isle of Jersey: Interlaced with some brief Meditations from its Rocky Steep and Lofty Situation." This effusion he dedicated to a daughter of Sir Philip de Carteret—

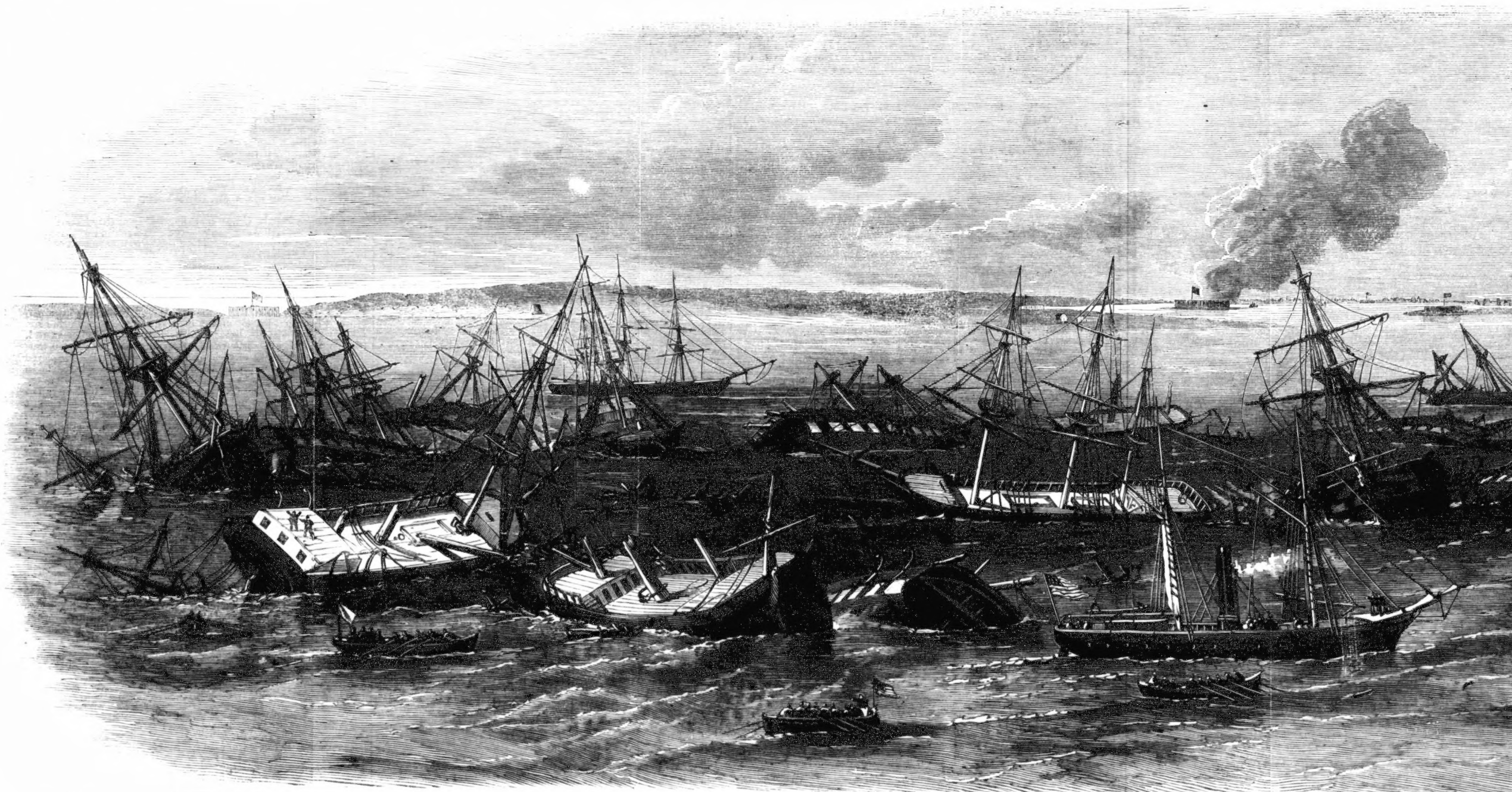
Sweet Mistress Douce, fair Margaret,
Prime flower of the house of Carteret.

Whilst the defensive works of Guernsey, spoken of in our last week's impression, are being rapidly carried on, those of Jersey are not neglected. At the southern point of St. Catherine's Bay—shown in

our Engraving—there is an isolated rock upon which is perched the Tower, and at northern extremity is a lofty point of land called Verclut. From this point the finest view of this bay is obtained, and here the Government has chosen to form a "harbour of refuge," but it is thought rather to be a harbour for vessels of war. In the direction of Archirondel Tower it is intended to carry out a couple of strong breakwaters—one from the shore, and the other from Verclut Point. These are to form the entrance to the harbour, which will be three miles in circumference. This vast undertaking will, when completed,



THE MAN-OF-WAR HARBOUR AT ST. CATHERINE'S, JERSEY, WITH THE FRENCH COAST IN THE EXTREME DISTANCE.



LIGHTHOUSE INLET BATTERY

SITE OF DESTROYED LIGHTHOUSE.

MORRIS ISLAND.

FORT JOHNSON. CUMMING'S POINT BATTERY. FORT SUMTER. CITY OF CHARLESTON. FORT MOULTRIE.

SINKING OF THE STONE FLEET AT THE ENTRANCE OF CHARLESTON HARBOUR, SOUTH CAROLINA.



THE MAN-OF-WAR HARBOUR AT ST. CATHERINE'S, JERSEY, WITH THE FRENCH COAST IN THE EXTREME DISTANCE.

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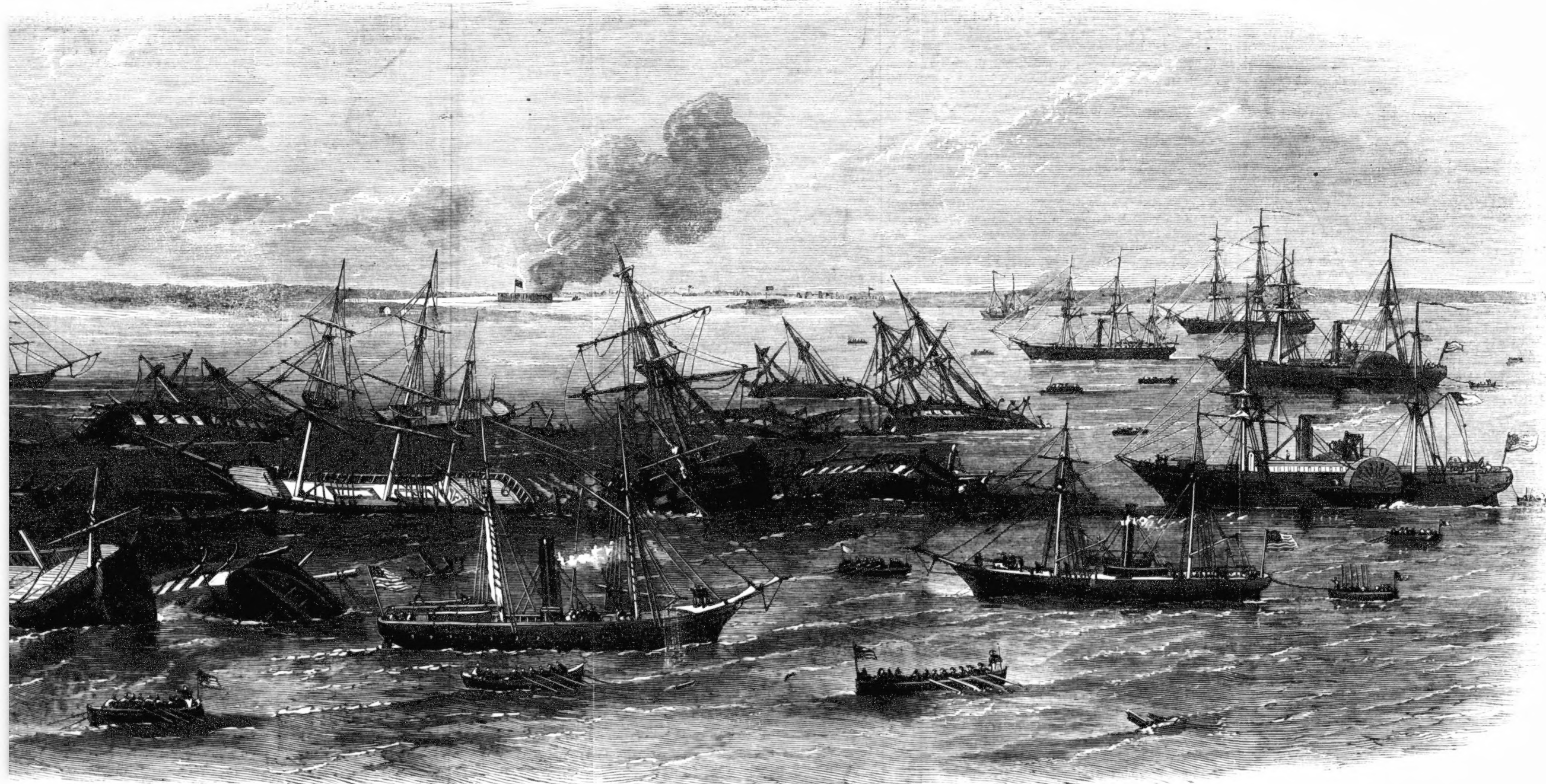
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present a great naval station, and in the event of war will not only be an important guard to these Anglo-Norman islands themselves, but also an immense defence to the English Channel generally.

THE BLOCKING-UP OF CHARLESTON HARBOUR.

THE blocking-up of Charleston harbour—or rather the attempt to do so, for it appears that the spiteful act has only been partially successful—has elicited an expression of almost universal indignation

and reprobation. That nations at war have done monstrous acts in order to damage their antagonists, is true; but that enlightened and civilised men have countenanced or justified such conduct, is most certainly the reverse. That nations at war have a right to destroy the artificial military preparations, of whatever kind, of their enemies is, we believe, universally admitted in principle; but that men have a right, under any pretext, to destroy those great provisions—such as rivers and seaports—which have been furnished by Nature for the advantage and convenience of the whole human race, and which, therefore, can never become the exclusive property of any section of it, is surely a manifestly wicked and indefensible position. That the Federal Government of America had such a design in their proceedings at Charleston can hardly be doubted, notwithstanding the efforts that are now being made to make it appear that their intention was not to destroy utterly and for all time so important a medium of intercommunication between one portion of the world and the rest. Indeed, the Federals now appear to be somewhat ashamed of the whole affair, and are extremely anxious to make the world believe that they never intended to destroy the harbour at all, but only to stop up one—the principal and most used—entrance to it, in order to make the task of blockading an easier and more practicable one. This may or may not be true as regards the intentions of the Government at Washington; but unquestionably the project and its execution were hailed by the press at least, if not by the general public of America, with the utmost exultation. That there are more entrances into Charleston harbour than one, and that the Yankees could not destroy them all, are more to be attributed to nature and their limited power for evil than to want of will on their part; and it is only transparent hypocrisy to attempt now to take credit for not doing what was beyond their power, and pretending that, because they have failed in accomplishing their malicious design, therefore they never entertained it. That that design was at least believed in in America, is proved by the tone assumed in the account which we give below from a Federal newspaper; that it has failed, and that a repetition of the attempt is not likely to be made, we owe to the overwhelming force of nature's laws and to the energetic protests which have been entered against such wicked conduct. It is satisfactory to know that, even at the worst, the obstructions formed at the Charleston harbour would only be temporary. The very action of the tide, upon which the perpetrators of this outrage relied for completing their work, is likely ultimately to frustrate it. The reflux of the tide would gradually, though slowly, suck the sand from under the sunken stone-laden hulks, and thus, by gradually drawing them out to sea and sinking them deeper, remove the barrier they were designed to form; and this operation, it would appear, has even already begun, as two steamers are reported to have passed through or over the very vessels which it was supposed had effectually closed the main passage into the harbour. But, whether this hypothesis be correct or not, there remains at least one other practical channel by which the harbour of Charleston can be reached, and that is not likely to be impeded by such means as "stone fleets," after the emphatic expression of opinion which Great Britain, France, and other countries have given forth on the subject. It appears that in December last Earl Russell instructed Lord Lyons to intimate to the Federal Government the disapprobation which would be excited in England and on the Continent if the intention of blocking up the Southern ports with stone was carried into effect; that such a proceeding would be looked upon as vindictive, and lead to the opinion that the re-establishment of the Union was considered



hopeless; that it would injure the best interests of the Federals themselves; and that the proceeding "would be a great plot against the commerce of all maritime nations, and against the free intercourse of the Southern States of America with the civilised world." It is understood that, subsequently to Charleston being blocked up, Earl Russell requested Lord Lyons to express a hope that other ports would not be similarly impeded. As other countries have joined in giving expression to like opinions, we trust we have heard the last of such barbarous methods of carrying on warfare as destroying permanently great natural harbours by means of "stone fleets," or any other such device.

We this week publish an Engraving showing the operation of sinking the stone-laden hulks while in course of accomplishment, and add the following somewhat grandiloquent account of the performance from a New York journal:

"Part of the great stone fleet has just fulfilled its mission, and been committed to the vasty deep, or rather been buried at the entrance of Charleston, to seal for years, and perhaps for ever, the inlet to that nest of treason. This work occupied part of three days, in consequence of its being necessary to select a certain state of the tide to perform the work effectually. The morning of the 19th of December was selected for the commencement of this singular operation, and the following were the doomed vessels selected as the silent ministers of vengeance:—Archer, American, Courier, Rebecca Sims, Richmond, Kensington, Potomac, Maria Theresa, Roba Hood, Herald, Tenedos, Leonidas, Theodosia, Fortune, and Amazon.

"At half-past four, the tide being nearly full, we re-crossed the bar, and ran a hawser to the barque Theodosia, of New London, which was to be the first victim, and towed her across the bar to the upper boat, on the left-hand side of the channel. When we had her in a good position, Captain Stevens, through a speaking-trumpet, ordered the captain to 'Cast off the hawser!' 'Ay, ay, sir!' came back the reply; and the hawser was let go and roused in again on our deck in the twinkling of an eye. The trembling old barque, being under some headway, moved slowly on to the exact spot we wished her and then struck the bottom, and her anchor dropped for the last time in the water, the chain rattling out as cheerfully as any chain might which had made its last run, and the old barque settled down into its own grave. The plug had been knocked out as the anchor dropped, and the water rushed madly and wildly in. In a moment the whaleboats were lowered and alongside, and the dunnage of the officers and crew rapidly passed over the bulwarks and into them.

"We did not wait for them, but hurried out to tow in another before dark. The first ship touched bottom and the plug was drawn as the sun went down. Each had finished its course at the same moment—one to rise on the morrow as bright and glorious as ever, the other to waste away and go to pieces under the combined action of the elements which it had braved so long and well.

"The Rebecca Sims was towed in and anchored at the other side of the channel, and the water soon filled her hold, and she sank slowly and in a dignified manner, rocking uneasily, to be sure, as the water poured in, but going down with every rope and spar in place—as a brave man falls in battle, with his harness on.

"We had now got the position of the bar clearly marked out, and the Florida boats were relieved from their unpleasant position as buoys, and they returned to their ship. Our work was reported to Captain Davis, and he requested the Pocahontas and the Ottawa to tow in and sink all the ships they could after the moon had risen high enough to afford us light to see.

"At eight o'clock we were again at work. We towed in and sunk four more before the low water made it impossible for the loaded ships to be placed in position, and then we ran out and anchored outside the bar.

"The Pocahontas towed in two during the evening. While we were at work the harbour was doited with whaleboats, running from their respective ships to the Culwaha, carrying away their (the officers and crews') baggage and the valuable sails and furniture of the ships. Some of the men of war boats were engaged in visiting the sunken ships and securing flour, potatoes, onions, and other acceptable provisions, rope, furniture, &c., which came very handy on board. By midnight most of the ships had sunk; some of them, however, lay keeled over, the sea flowing over their decks.

"Next day the work was recommenced, and by nightfall that portion of the stone fleet intended for Charleston was firmly imbedded in the sands. The braces and shrouds were cut by the sharp axe, and, after awaying hither and thither for a few seconds, one tall mast after another went over the sides with a crashing sound. The scene presented was a novel and interesting one. In the direct ship channel were fifteen dismantled hulks, in every possible direction, some on their port, others on their starboard sides; some were under water forward, others aft; the sea swept over some of them, others stood on upright keels and spouted water from their sides as the heavy swells raised them and dropped them heavily down upon the sand again. And proudly among them all was the East Indianman brave Robin Hood, with her graceful, tapering masts towering aloft and apparently still afloat. The Robin Hood was reserved for another purpose—to undergo, as it were, two fates, and by the opposing elements of fire and water, for it had been decreed that all the stores, rigging, and other portions which could not be taken away should be put into this vessel, which should then be set fire to. At six o'clock the torch was applied to the Robin Hood, and soon after the scene around was illumined by the blaze. At midnight the scene was very grand; in the background were Fort Sumter, Fort Moultrie, with Charleston in the distance."

The sinking of the vessels was superintended by Captain Davis, of the U.S. Navy, and was projected by several Federal ships of war.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA AND HIS ARMY.—The *Press* of Vienna gives the following as the text of the allocution addressed by the Emperor Francis Joseph to the officers at a review of the troops at Verona:—"The bearing and fine appearance of the men has caused me the most lively satisfaction, and I express to you, gentlemen, my gratitude. Continue to maintain among your battalions the same spirit as well as discipline which has always prevailed in my army. Serious struggles await us, and no one can say when they may take place. Prepare the troops for them, in order that you may be able to support them properly, with God's aid. I reckon on you." When the Emperor had terminated, General Benedek advanced and spoke as follows:—"Will your Majesty permit me to break the silence prescribed by the regulations, to express the sentiments which animate us all—every man in the army as well as myself—towards you and your august house? Free from all prejudices of nationality, birth, and religion, we desire, all of us, to the last soldier, to see Austria grand, free, powerful, and dreaded, under the glorious dynasty of your Majesty. Without fearing fatigue or danger, we will shed the last drop of our blood to preserve to your Majesty an Austria powerful and grand and to defend our country. May the Almighty watch over you, over your august consort, and your son, and render you happy! That is our most ardent wish. Let your Majesty here receive the solemn oath of the Army, which I repeat in the name of my soldiers to our Commander-in-Chief. Without distinction of nationality, birth, or religion, we wish to devote our lives to your Majesty, and, if we fail, to die with honour. But we are determined to conquer. Thus may God be on our side! Long live the Emperor of Austria!"

TRADES OF LEICHAARDT'S EXPEDITION.—A South Australian searching party, headed by Mr. McKinnlay, had, at the date of recent letters from the colony, returned to the settled regions, and reported that within twelve miles of the western part of Cooper's Creek the remains of several bodies of white men had been found, leaving indications that they had been murdered by the natives, and that one of the bodies had been partially eaten by the savages. From Western Australia, also, we learned that some traces of white men had been discovered by Messrs. Dempster's party, and in each case there is a supposition that they may have been the remains of some of the ill-fated party of the unfortunate Leichardt. If the report be correct, it is not improbable but that it may be the remnant of Leichardt's party struggling towards the settled districts of Western Australia, whether it is well known Leichardt himself was bound. Two members of the exploring party say that in one instance the natives said the horses which the white men had with them are still alive, and the time when had elapsed since the men's death was estimated by exhibiting the extent to which the natives' beards had grown.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1862.

POPULAR EDUCATION.

MR. ROEBUCK, M.P., has recently delivered, at Salisbury, an interesting address upon the subject of popular education. The essence of his discourse may be condensed into a single sentence. He has regarded education as a means of temporal happiness. He has enforced this view by well-chosen facts and by happy illustrations. The whole tenor of his speech was marked by the vigour peculiar to the man, who, nevertheless, refrained from that biting personal sarcasm by which many of his public efforts have hitherto been distinguished.

The great result of education, according to Mr. Roebuck's account, is kindly consideration—in fact, what is known among Christians by the term "charity." This, he tells us, is the prevailing characteristic of the households of the educated class. The labouring man, he says, does not display this sentiment in its domestic results. The class do not exhibit kindness and cordiality one towards another. Their families "herd together like animals of the brute creation, and the representative man, driven out of doors by the noise of his children, goes to the Green Bough next door, and drinks himself into the state of a brute." Mr. Roebuck maintains that this miserable phase of existence is not necessarily the state of the labourer. He proves this by the advanced intellectual culture of the Lowell factory girls, who have produced a magazine, and whom even would-be satirists have complimented by calling "gentlewomen." He draws a contrast between the life of an educated commercial clerk and that of a northern mechanic earning the same wages, but who makes it the business of his life to get sober after getting drunk and to get drunk as soon as possible after being sobered. The picture is not flattering to the labourer; but even Mr. Roebuck might have heightened it by a reference to his own constituency at Sheffield, where the uneducated labourer becomes such a despicable tool as to be at once a slave and a despot, and to shrink not even from the most cruel and cowardly means of midnight murder for revenge upon the families of those who retain sufficient sense or independence to refuse to league with him and his comrades.

Mr. Roebuck touched happily—and, considering that a Bishop was in the chair, as closely as possible to the mark—upon the topic of what may be called "parsonic," as distinguished from religious, education. Said he, "It is the habit of very well-intended people to go into a school and say, 'Well, what shall we teach these children? We will teach them the events of past ages.' Pretty nearly the first thing they say is, 'Don't you think this child, John Brown, should learn who were the Kings of Israel and Judea?' By dint of driving hard they teach the child the order in which Jeroboam comes and who succeeded him; but what earthly good is it to him?" And, finally, summarising the whole tendency of his address, he declared the happiness of the millions to be the end and object of his advocacy of popular education.

We have no quarrel with Mr. Roebuck's speech so far as it goes. But he certainly appears to have lost sight of one important consideration—namely, that the mere capacity for liberal education is a gift not falling to the lot of all. There is, perhaps, no commodity so thoroughly marketable—nay more, which fetches such high price in England—as intellect combined with education. It is upon this basis that the superstructure of our higher classes rests more and more every day; and in an exactly inverse ratio the classes incapable of intellectual culture sink into mere human drudges, and, as Mr. Roebuck phrases it, to the level of the brute. But, even giving this consideration its full weight, it must not be forgotten that, even as inherent physical peculiarities are sometimes intermittent for successive generations, so are those of the mind. Every child ought to have a fair chance. The common elements of education should be as free and accessible as light and air, and as compulsory, if need be, as drainage and ventilation. To all who can read, free libraries should be available upon the admirable system which, sanctioned by Government, has been, save in a few instances, discontinued with such pertinacity by vulgar parochial authorities. But here the sectarian steps in with his set cry about "godless education." The difficulty can easily be met by making the New Testament the text-book for school-readers. As to more advanced theological education, is not this exactly what our thousands of churches are established to dispense? Yet it is the theological (not the religious) difficulty which is the grand obstacle to universal popular education. The Romanist may object to the use of the book we have named. So, for other reasons, may the Member—possibly the Atheist. But because the one chooses to place the best, the most unexception-

able, book in the world in his "Index Expurgatorius," together with the most famous works of history and philosophy, are seven-eighths of the nation to wallow in ignorance? Let a system of education be established upon the broad system we have pointed out, and let those who differ from it be simply compelled to provide their own. The latter will be in no worse condition than at present, and the reproach of breeding and training English children for mere hopeless beasts of burden will cease to be a national disgrace.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN REMAINS at OSBORNE, with the Prince of Wales and the other members of the Royal family.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has forwarded £12 to be distributed among the persons employed at Madingley Hall, and has also sent £20 to the Rector for distribution among the poor of the parish.

UP TO WEDNESDAY EVENING the subscriptions received by the Lord Mayor for the Prince Consort National Memorial amounted to about £12,000.

THE RIFLE BRIGADE will henceforth be designated "The Prince Consort's Own," in remembrance of the connection of his late Royal Highness with that distinguished corps.

THE PRINCESS OF PRUSSIA is expected in England on a lengthened visit. She is not in an interesting condition, as was rumoured.

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIKENESSES OF PRINCE ALBERT are being rapidly sold in Paris to French as much as to English purchasers. One print-seller sold in one day about a week ago 30,000 cartes de visite bearing the likeness of the deceased Prince.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON, while out shooting a few days ago with the Duke of Magenta, was struck in the nape of the neck with two or three stray shots from the gun of his companion.

A MARRIAGE is stated to be arranged between Mr. Charles Maidland and the Hon. Eleanor Stanley, daughter of Mr. and Lady Mary Stanley. Miss Stanley is one of the Maids of Honour to her Majesty.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN INGLE, the hero of Lucknow, sailed from Liverpool on Saturday to take the command of the troops at Coria.

THE RIGHT HON. LORD FRYERSHAM has consented to take the chair at the annual festival of the London Society for the Protection of Young Females in May next.

ORDERS have been received at the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich for the manufacture of 2,000,000 Minié bullets per week, to be continued until further orders.

THE MAN supposed to be Nana Sahib still remains in prison at Kurrachee. It is very doubtful if he is really the Nana.

ADMIRALTY ORDERS have been received at Chatham directing that the whole of the hired workmen, mechanics, and labourers are not to be retained at the dockyard after the close of the present financial year. A similar order has also been received at Sheerness Dockyard.

THE SUTTER, having been ordered to quit Cadix, has been upon a cruise in the Mediterranean, and arrived at Gibraltar on the 19th, having captured and burnt some other Federal vessels.

ON THE MORNING OF THE 9TH INSTANT A TELESCOPIC COMET was discovered by Dr. Wincke at the Imperial Observatory of Pulkova, near St. Petersburg.

THE EXPENSES OF THE WINDHAM CASE are estimated as high as £50,000.

THE *Press* of Vienna says that the Emperor, during his visit to Venice, placed at the disposal of General Benedek a sum of 1,000,000 florins for the establishment of a military hospital on a large scale.

THE REV. T. PEACHY has given the large sum of £50,000 to Archdeacon Law for the founding of a college for education in the neighbourhood of London.

OUT OF THE 10,000 houses in Berlin there are only 31 which are completely free from mortgage.

A FEW DAYS SINCE WILLIAM SIDDALL, late surveyor of the Tolmorden turnpike roads, destroyed himself by strangulation. The verdict at the inquest was "Temporary insanity, caused by excessive drinking."

A DEAD WHALE, forty-five feet in length and thirty in girth, has drifted ashore in Ballydonogan Bay, Ireland.

A BOAT capsized in Plymouth Sound on Monday morning, and six men were drowned.

WORKMEN have commenced laying the foundation of the new Grand Opera in Paris. A slab of marble bearing the date and the names of the architect and contractors has been laid with the first stone.

A GREAT FIRE which occurred lately in Nashville, Tennessee, destroyed 800,000 dolls. worth of property.

THE CHAIR OF CHEMISTRY in the University of Aberdeen is vacant by the death of Dr. Fyfe. The patronage is vested in the Lord Rector and other members of the University Court, six in all, including the Rector.

AT SIGNORA MARIO'S LECTURE in Liverpool last week Mr. Peter Stuart, who presided, announced that it was his intention to give £500 to the soldier who should first plant the Italian standard on the walls of the Capitol at Rome, where he (the chairman) hoped to meet Mazzini.

A VESSEL has arrived at Liverpool with a cargo of spirits of turpentine, having run the blockade at Charleston, passing through the obstructions formed by the sunken "stone fleet."

DURING AN ENGAGEMENT at NEWMARKET, near Fortress Monroe, a woman was seen among the Confederate cavalry mounted upon a beautiful horse and riding fearlessly in the thickest part of the fight.

THE MASTS OF A SUNKEN VESSEL have been discovered protruding from the sea near the Bailey Light at Howth. She seems to have gone down with all on board, unseen, and without a record of the fatality.

MRS. ANNA KOSUTH has just died in the Comitat of Thurocz, at the age of seventy-eight. Her late husband was a member of the same family as Louis Kosuth, and the deceased has bequeathed the part of her fortune which came to her from her husband to the sons of the latter.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION are extending their system of district model schools throughout Ireland, and in a few years few towns of any consequence will be without one of those important institutions.

THOMAS HUNTER, described as an artist, residing at Guildford, has been committed for trial at Farnham for forging London and South-Western railway tickets.

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH passed upon the youth Dousios for an attempt upon the life of the Queen of Greece has, at the request of her Majesty, been commuted to perpetual imprisonment.

THE BISHOP OF FOSCOMBONE is shortly to be tried at the Assizes of Pesaro for contempt of the Government, as shown in a letter addressed by him to the Italian Minister of Grace and Justice.

IT IS NOW DETERMINED to place in the arcades on the south front of the Exhibition building decorations on a large and effective scale of the nature of mosaic.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS to Mr. Halliwell's Shakespeare Fund have been announced to the amount of £230.

ABOUT £2000 has now been subscribed to meet the distress at present existing amongst the operatives at Wigan, and the principal portion of this large sum has been given as first contributions.

ORDERS have been given by the Government of the United States for the release of the two American gentlemen taken from on board the English schooner *Eugenia Smith* by the United States' steamer *Santiago de Cuba*.

ON TWELFTH NIGHT, during a grand dinner given by the Prince Primate of Hungary, some thieves entered the palace and stole a sum of 40,000fl. in duets and the Archbishop's Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen.

ANOTHER AFFRAY with SALMON-POACHERS has taken place near Carlisle, in which one man was killed and another sustained serious injuries.

THE DEPRESSION existing in STOCKFORD, in consequence of the depression in the cotton trade, is rapidly on the increase. Several of the millowners are giving away soup, others are presenting their work-people with bread tickets, and large quantities of coal have also been distributed.

IN A CROWDED NEIGHBOURHOOD in LONDON an enterprising barber has placed a notice in his shop to the following effect:—"In consequence of the repeal of the paper duty, gentlemen can be shaved, wash, and have a new collar for 2d."

IT IS A CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE, and in some measure a sign of the times, that the *Invalide Russe* promises its new subscribers as a premium a complete collection of the Constitutions of all the States of Europe.

RE. SENTER, Commander, Confederate States' steamer *Surater*, has written a letter to the *Times*, in which he denies that he is a privateer, and he only says that he is a privateer, and he will prove, he says, that he can make "public" as well as "private" property at sea.

PROFESSOR BERTI, one of the most distinguished writers of Turin, is about to publish, in a pamphlet, a collection of original letters of Count Cavour, and particularly during the Congress of Paris, which contain the basis of the regeneration of Italy.

A MERCHANT OF ARRIVE who had sent an order for muskets to St. Etienne received an answer to the effect that it will be impossible to execute it in the course of the present year, as all hands will be fully occupied in the execution of contracts already made with Italy.

ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN FRANCE, it appears that 230 persons bitten by mad animals, and who died from hydrophobia, 157 were men and 82 were women; and that 199 were bitten by wolves, 13 by cats, and 1 by a fox; and also that there are in France two cases of rabies to every million persons.

THE CORPSE OF A MAN, supposed to be a lunatic, who had escaped from the Borough Asylum at Birmingham, was last week found in a field near Wolverhampton. The poor creature is believed to have been frozen to death.

A BOARD appointed by the United States' Government has reported against the efficiency of "Stevens' floating-battery," a description of which appeared in our columns a few weeks ago.

THE BODY OF THE MAN drowned in the late poisoning affray in the County has been recovered. Pending the result of the Coroner's inquiry, proceedings against the other parties implicated in the affair will remain in abeyance.

A RESPECTABLE FARMER NAMED KEEGAN, having prosecuted a man and a woman at the Killiney Petty Sessions, Ireland, was called out of his house this instant, when he was set upon by a party of twelve men, who held him till they supposed he was dead. He is unable to identify the assailants.

A RESOLUTION was passed in the sitting of the Turin Representative on Saturday last, agreeing to take into consideration the proposal that a universal Italian exhibition should be held in Naples.

THE TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION between Calcutta and England has been interrupted for some days, the cable having been broken in mid-channel, by the action of the 30th of November and the 4th of December, 1861, until the communications shall have been formally resuscitated. This includes repairs of war and gunpowder.

THE DEFENSE, iron frigate, has attained the speed of thirteen knots with two engines at work. It is expected that with full power on she will go as fast as twenty. Before proceeding on her cruise to test her sailing capabilities during the equinoctial gales she will be tried as a ram in running down a vessel selected for the experiment in order to enable the Admiralty to ascertain her powers in this respect.

MESSRS. PARKER AND HOLMES, missionaries in China, hearing that the rebels were likely to visit Yantai, buckled on their revolvers, mounted their horses, and rode out thirty-five miles to meet them. They got to the city, asked him his intention, questioned him as to his religious belief, explained a little Christianity, and were then cut in pieces by his people.

A LADY, as we were taking her morning walk in search of a rabbit, a workman observed a hawk hovering over some bushes, perhaps in search of a rabbit. At last the bird of prey pounced upon the rabbit, who, however, soon convinced him of his error, and effectually prevented him from ever mounting in the air again.

MRS. FORTAMER, the proprietress of the Palazzo Spada, from which Padre Testa was driven by the police, and who wrote several letters on the subject, has just published a full recantation of her errors, and now says that the Pope was quite in the right. The letter reads very much as it might have written under pressure.

FATHER DALY has proceeded to Rome in order to support his appeal to the Pope against the sentence of deprivation pronounced upon him by Bishop McElroy.

THE PRINCES were drowned while skating on the lake in the Bois de St. Cloud, Paris, on Sunday. They and a number of others had ventured upon a portion of the ice marked unsafe; it gave way, eight or ten persons were immersed, and four drowned.

THE STEAM TROOP SHIP VICTORIA, which sailed from Queenstown on the 18th inst. with the right wing of the 6th Regiment, has put back to Queenstown, disabled. She lost all her boats and had her bulwarks stove. Under transport, with the 16th Regiment on board, has also had to put back, having encountered a severe gale and sustained considerable damage.

THE REV. ARTHUR STANLEY, Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, has been appointed to accompany his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on his tour through the East.

BRIDGET KIRK, widow of the late James Kirk, aged 110 years, recently died at Talsbawn, Skye. She was in pretty good health till within three days of her death. She was a widow for twenty years, and her eldest son is more than 70 years of age.

TWO ENGLISH NOBLES, Viscount Hamilton and Lord Listowel, have arrived at Malacca with the intention of proceeding on a sporting tour to Singapore.

THE MESSAGERIES IMPERIALES COMPANY have just concluded a contract with an English firm for the construction, for £1,000,000 sterling, of eight half-hull iron steam-vessels for packet service, three to be built on the Clyde, and five in ports of France, under the superintendence of the firm.

THE GLOUCESTER COMPANY have presented to the Orphan Working School, Gloucester, a donation of £50 in aid of the recent enlargement of the school.

SEVERAL OF THE FRENCH JOURNALS announce as positive that Prince Louis will pay a visit to France in the coming spring.

THE RAILWAY COMPANY are to have a volunteer review and field-day at London on Friday Monday, and has made preparations in accordance with the railway company for carrying the project into effect.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

ON the 19th of December, at three o'clock in the afternoon, Mr. Adams read to Earl Russell Mr. Seward's pacificatory despatch. On the 20th the writer of the *Times* City article announced that on the preceding day a report was prevalent that the legal authorities at Washington had pronounced against the capture of Messrs. Sidel and Mason; and that "the English funds opened with more steadiness, closing even with animation;" and that in the course of the day "a large number of investments were made, and that the supply of stock for immediate delivery was inadequate to the demand." And now the question is, who was the traitor? Who divulged the news that a peaceful despatch had arrived? Well, in my humble opinion, there is no necessity to resort to the suspicion that there was any treachery in the business. Cabinet secrets, as I told you last week, are now pretty securely kept. But I doubt the possibility of keeping good news effectually and hermetically sealed up. You may shut up the document containing it in your desk, lock and double lock your patent Chubb, and seal it with an official seal, but the news itself is so volatile that it will coze out. It will show itself in the relaxed muscles of your face—in a casual remark—in the twinkle of an eye. Earl Russell I take to be the most unimpassioned, the most reticent, the coldest mortal that Nature ever made; but even the icy face of the noble Lord now and then reveals the working of his inner mind. For example—how glum and gloomy was his countenance when he sat upon the back benches after he returned from Vienna compared with what it was when he joyously threw off in 1860 that incubus of a Reform Bill which wellnigh plagued him to death? For my part, I am not prepared to believe in the traitor theory. It was known that Mr. Adams had been closeted with Earl Russell; and those who are accustomed to read countenances would see at once after the interview was over whether the news that the American Ambassador had imparted was good or bad. That rumour of the news was at the clubs that night I happen to know. What the exact intelligence was no one could tell, or how the rumour arose. It probably started something after this fashion: "I say, Jones," Brown may have whispered, "there's good news from America. I don't know what it is exactly, but Fitz-scribble of the Foreign Office told me that Adams was closeted with Downing-street for an hour, and that 'Johnny' when he came looked as merry as he did when he got rid of the Reform Bill; and Adams's coachman told my groom that his master whistled 'Yankee Doodle' all the way home. Depend upon it there's good news. I shall go in for Old Trunk the first thing to-morrow." And when once started we know how this sort of thing grows; and so let us not be in a hurry to adopt the traitor theory.

Who is the Father of the House, is a question not yet decided. To solve this question it will be necessary to examine carefully, from beginning to end, "Dod's Parliamentary Companion," a labour which I have not yet thought it worth while to undertake. Meanwhile I decide, provisionally, that Lord Palmerston ought to have the belt; and by way of sanction to this decision, I give you this week a little fact in the noble Lord's history which I have just stumbled upon in the course of my reading, promising that this fact has escaped, as far as my knowledge goes, all the biographers of the Premier. It is not in "Men of the Time;" "Dod" does not mention it; the editor of "The Dictionary of Contemporary Biography" knew nothing of it; nor does the writer of the life of Palmerston in Knight's "English Cyclopædia" make mention of it. The fact is this:—All these biographers tell us that Lord Palmerston first tried to get into Parliament, through the University of Cambridge, when Pitt died (Jan. 23, 1806), and that he was beaten by Lord Henry Petty, now Marquis of Lansdowne—which is true; but they then go on to say that the noble Lord was first returned for the borough of Bletchingley in 1807—which is not true; for he was first returned for the borough of Horsham, at the general election in the latter part of 1806. But, though returned, he did not formally take his seat; for, in consequence of a dispute about the right of certain voters who were allowed to poll, the returning officers made a double return. The candidates were Lord Fitzharris, Lord Palmerston, Mr. L. P. Jones, and Mr. Wilder. The latter two really had the majority, and, after a scrutiny by a Committee of the House, were declared to be the lawful representatives. Meanwhile Lord Palmerston, having been returned, had the privilege of entering the House though he could not formally take his seat, and, of course, could neither speak nor vote. At this election Lord Palmerston polled twenty-nine votes, but twenty-eight of these were struck off by the scrutineers, leaving his Lordship only one solitary vote. The successful candidates on this occasion polled forty-four votes. The real combatants at this election were the Duke of Norfolk and the Marquis of Hertford, and out of this contest a good deal of litigation arose between the two Peers, which ended in the Duke buying up the Marquis's interest and becoming the undisputed patron of the borough. What was the name of the solitary qualified voter who polled for Palmerston? Horsham should look to this, and enshrine it in everlasting brass.

Mr. Roebuck has been to Salisbury, and in the presence of the Bishop delivered one of his most characteristic speeches; and very effective it was, and very telling; but it was, nevertheless, as full of fallacies and falsities as a Christmas pudding is full of plums. Mr. Roebuck told the Salisburyans that certain artisans in the north—plate-rollers, to wit—earned as much as the pay of a Lieutenant in the Guards—viz., £1 6s. 9d. per day, amounting to £188 3s. 9d. per year; which, of course, is incredible and impossible. He further introduced a farm-labourer who had never heard of the Duke of Wellington as the type of the labouring class, and very well drawn and coloured the picture was. He next drew another picture of a drunken artisan with a slattern wife as the representative man of artisans; and then he introduced an intellectual, sober, steady, studious, domestic gentleman as the type of the City and Government clerks; and, as paintings, these pictures are worthy of all praise. Indeed, nothing could have been more artistically done; but, unfortunately, they are not likenesses; there are no such men. Artisans do not earn £1 6s. 9d. a day; the great body of agricultural labourers are not ignorant of the existence of the Iron Duke; artisans are not, as a rule, a drunken race, nor are their wives slatterns; and, though clerks are very respectable people, no doubt, they certainly are not such model intellectual gentlemen as Mr. Roebuck would have us believe. And as Mr. Roebuck's facts are wrong, so is his logic. But this is not the first time we have learned that the Sheffield pet is a bad logician. He is an eloquent, dramatic, and forcible speaker, and a great master of the English tongue; but his facts, as he puts them, are seldom trustworthy; and the logic is almost always faulty. Mr. Roebuck is right in his wish to educate the people, but his reasons are wrong; reminding one of a saying of Johnson, "When you have decided, act; but do not give reasons for your decision, for it is ten to one that, whilst your decision is right, your reasons are all wrong."

Five shiploads of soldiers have been landed at Halifax, and not a barracks nor a house ready to receive them, with the thermometer 12 below zero, and still falling. The Earl of Mulgrave, the Lieutenant-Governor, is reported to be at his wit's end, which is not wonderful, for the journey thither is notoriously short. It is well for his Lordship and England that this Trent business has been so well got rid of; for, though his Lordship was a tolerably good second whip to Sir William Hayter, and kept watch and ward at the door of the House with creditable industry, it is questionable—more than questionable—whether he would prove equal to the solemn responsibility of Governor of Nova Scotia in time of war. Nor is much confidence to be placed in Lord Monck at Canada. He also was a junior whip; a sort of dragoon to the illustrious Hayter. It is in times of trouble that these political jobs show out. Incompetent Governors, and faulty cannon, and shoddy clothing, and scamped cordwainery, and badly-tempered swords may pass muster in times of peace; but when war comes all this political and departmental jobbery, as we saw in the Crimea, recoils upon us with terrible consequences. No clerk now can get into Somerset House but through the ordeal of a searching examination, which is right; but it is still considered that anybody will do for the Governor of a province. No examination tests him. "This man has served us well at the door of the House; he must be rewarded. Well, the governorship of Canada is vacant. Send him there." And whilst peace endures all goes well; but if war breaks out we then discover the truth of the proverb, "The strength of a chain is in its weakest link." I see that a proposal was made to convert some of the city churches at Halifax into temporary barracks, but orthodox growled a refusal and the project was abandoned. Old Noll would have soon disposed of orthodox.

Colonel Taylor, the popular chief whip of the Conservative party, has shot away the top joint of his right-hand thumb, but, under skilful surgery, he is doing well, and has gone home to Ardillon Castle, which one is glad to hear, for a very able and efficient whip and capital fellow is Colonel Taylor.

And the Right Hon. Sir John Pakington, ex First Lord of the Admiralty, has met with an accident. He has been thrown from his horse. He was cantering along when his horse fell and threw his rider and kicked him on the back. A fall on the hard road and a kick on the back are no slight things to a man over sixty; but report says the injuries are not serious, and let us hope that it is true. When Sir John first turned up as an official the Duke of Wellington asked, "Who is he? I never heard of the gentleman." But Sir John has made himself known since then, and is a very useful if not a brilliant leader of the Conservative party; and it is historic, this name of Pakington. Attached to a very eccentric character—no doubt one of Sir John's forebears—it turns up in Dixon's "Life of Bacon." A Sir John Pakington, too, was said to be the original of Addison and Steele's Sir Roger de Coverley.

The mover of the Address is to be the Hon. Mr. Portman, eldest son of Lord Portman. He will doubtless appear in the dress of a Lieutenant-Colonel of West Somerset Yeomanry Cavalry; but in what guise will the new City member, Mr. Western Wood, who is to be seconder, appear? In the scarlet and silver of a Deputy-Lieutenant, I suppose.

The communication printed some ten days since in the *Times* upon the gross manner in which ladies shopping in London streets are frequently insulted has called forth one or two very sensible letters. Such are those of "A London Man" and "Common Sense," though they take rather opposite views. There are many men-about-town who, though constantly on the look-out for an intrigue with a questionable person, would hesitate before annoying a lady, but the difficulty for them now is to know who may or who may not

safely be spoken to. The "Hetaire" (as the "London Man" delicately calls them) have become rigidly scrupulous in manner—tongued down in dress and demeanour—while the young ladies, on the other hand, have adopted every possible vagary in bonnet-building and hairdressing, every flashy fashion, every meretricious colour and notice-attracting article of dress. Nobody knows who starts any fashion; and as to who gives the *mot d'ordre* of the form and fancy of ladies' habiliments I am, of course, ignorant, but I suppose it originates in Belgrave and Mayfair, and is servilely copied by suburban damsels, who forget that the "kiss-me-quick" bonnets and other adornments which excite admiration when their lovely owners are lounging in the park or reclining in their carriages are scarcely proper dress for the Regent-street pavement or the Pantheon Bazaar. I think, too, that the writers of these letters are in error in assuming that the systematic persecutors of unprotected ladies are generally young men. At the hours during which ladies are shopping or passing through the streets, most young men of the upper and upper middle classes are engaged either in their business or in such pleasure-business as they make for themselves—club-lounging, Tattersall-haunting, and so forth. It is your elderly Lothario who is most dreaded by the defenceless young lady,—your old George the Fourth buck, still retaining his high plaid-muslin cravat and stiff gills, his cutaway coat and Regent hat; or your used-up and ex-army man, with the purple lacquer on his mangy old moustache, and the parboiled vicious eye, who spends his mornings in a pound-a-week garret in Bury-street, his afternoons in public thoroughfares, and his nights in the billiard-rooms of the Rag and Famish.

Two or three correspondents having, through their own stupidity or mine, misread a paragraph in my article last week, it is necessary to state that it was Mr. now Sir Charles, Wentworth Dilke who refused the six thousand pounds offered him for his services in connection with the '51 Exhibition, and not Mr. Cole, C.B., who is believed never to have refused anything. A paragraph in a provincial paper hints that the Companionship of the Bath is about to be bestowed on Mr. Edgar Lowring, who was secretary to the commissioners of '51. The paragraph, however, was not official, and reads rather as though written on the "don't nail his ear to the pump" principle.

Mr. Charles Dickens is said to be engaged on a new novel, the first chapters of which will speedily be published. It will appear, not in the pages of *All the Year Round*, but in old familiar monthly serial shape with the green cover, with illustrations by Phiz.

Who has the charge of the public-office orthography? I mentioned some time since the motto "Quis seperabit" on the new Record Office. Now, on a board opposite St. George's Hospital, the curious may read that across Vauxhall-bridge is the nearest way to Sydenham.

The small room at St. James's Hall is now occupied with an entertainment which affords a strange contrast to the melange of minstrelsy or selections of serenading that whilom filled the place with sounds of Ethiopian revelry by night. The little stage is framed for a pictorial display, something like, but still very different from, the well-known diorama of modern days. Twenty-seven paintings, of a very high order of merit, especially as regards figure drawing, are successively displayed in this frame, the whole series being devoted to the illustration of Dante's "Divina Commedia." Appropriately music is supplied by the same pianist. I observed, who energetically accompanied the banjoes of the Buckleys; and an oral explanation is given by a gentleman whose prose mingles rather oddly with the extracts from Cary's well-known translation of the Florentine poet, but who, nevertheless, reads with good emphasis and discretion, as well as in a voice so agreeably modulated as to suggest that its owner is a practised elocutionist. The exhibition is well worth a visit.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"Self-made," at the St. James's, is a translation of "Le Chevalier St. Georges," the story of a runaway slave, who under another name raises himself to rank and affluence, but whose secret is discovered by his rival in a lady's love, who publicly exposes him. A duel with this rival is prevented by the discovery that they are brothers. The present version has been well done, and is well acted by Mr. George Vining and Miss Herbert. The burlesque of "Perseus and Andromeda" continues to attract. Mr. Joseph Robins as the monster is specially funny.

A BOON TO THE ARMY.—The Commander-in-Chief, in concurrence with the Secretary of State for War, has just sanctioned the earnest request of several of the medical officers of the Army to allow the men the use of their great-coats whilst on duty. This is not only a great boon, but a wise medical provision. The Secretary of State, in sanctioning the use of the great-coats under the circumstances stated, expressed a hope to his Royal Highness that the soldier would pay so strict attention to the preservation of his coat as to oblige the Treasury for the renewal of the boon before the expiration of the ordinary period of three years.

REFORM AGITATION IN THE NORTH.—The members of the Northern Reform Union, one of the oldest reform organizations in the country, are again vigorously at work. During the past week three meetings have been held in the district of Newcastle, at which, as will be seen by the local papers, the interest in Reform was unabated. During the ensuing few weeks we learn that the union intend to hold ten or twelve other meetings. A conference of Reformers will be held in London in the course of next month, when it is intended to initiate a national agitation which will consolidate and extend the scattered efforts of the different reform unions. We doubt whether these efforts are at all likely to give any real degree of vitality to reform agitation.

"A PEASANT GIRL OF SOUTHERN RUSSIA."

FROM A PICTURE BY J. J. SOKOLOFF.

The inhabitants of the south-western governments of the Russian empire (formerly known as Lower or White Russia) are, for the most part, engaged in agricultural pursuits. They differ essentially and in many important respects from the people of Northern Russia. The latter are a broad-shouldered, short-necked, and short-limbed race; they have coarse features and ruddy complexions. The Southern Russian is a being of very different formation, though it must be confessed that his good looks are frequently marred by the neglect of personal cleanliness. The dirty and slovenly habits of these people have led superficial observers to pronounce them to be a miserable race of savages, whilst those whose opinions have been formed under more favourable circumstances have fancied they have discovered a Median Venus or an Apollo Belvedere among the unsophisticated rustics of Southern Russia. The truth lies between the two extremes. In general the Southern Russian is distinguished by his small, pointed nose, his thin beard, his low forehead, and his small eyes. In his blood there is a little mixture of the Mongolian with the Slavonic. Yet in many individuals we find the Slavonian type is preserved in all its purity; and, generally speaking, it may fairly be said that a well-dressed and well-mannered Southern Russian is superior to a Northern Russian of the same class. In Southern Russia we frequently see a slender figure, with well-formed limbs and good muscular development—advantages which are naturally combined with activity and grace of motion. The people of the Northern race are, on the other hand, frequently fat and clumsy. The educated class of the Southern Russians usually have an intelligent and refined expression of countenance, with a certain dash of melancholy.

In complexion the Southern Russians are as brown as the people of Eastern nations; ruddy cheeks are seldom seen among them. Their eyes are invariably either brown or black, and their hair dark. Occasionally one sees among these simple people specimens of personal beauty, combined with a grace of motion and refinement of manner, not excelled in the most civilized ranks of European society. The peasant girl who is the subject of our illustration is one of these pleasing specimens.



A PEASANT GIRL OF SOUTHERN RUSSIA.—[FROM A PICTURE BY M. A. BOLKOVSKI.]



LONDON SKETCHES, NO. 16.—THE WATCH FAIR, HOUNSDITCH.

THE HOUNSDITCH JEWELLERY MARKET.

I HAVE reason considerably to modify the opinion I lately expressed concerning the Houndsditch Sunday fair. A week or two ago, having, as I imagined, explored it thoroughly—having perambulated Moses-square, where the rags and tatters, and secondhand hats and bonnets, and shoes and stockings, were bartered and haggled; and Cutler-street and Petticoat-lane, famous for workmen's tools, musical instruments, and military and marine stores; and Phill's-buildings,

where swarm and chaffer among themselves the real "Ole Clo" men and women; and the "Exchange," where, collected from Heaven knows what sources, are constantly exposed for sale silk gowns, satin gowns, costly laces, and shawls of Persia and India, tarnished certainly, but still with a thoroughbred air about them that begot much sympathy for their unfortunate condition—when I had discovered all these things, my impression was that I knew all about the business; and this is what I thought of it:—That it was, as a business, nasty, and

mean, and miserable; that they who embarked in it were to a man or woman Jews; and that its character gave the flattest contradiction to the proverbial cunning of the Jew, likewise to the vaunted value of his organs of vision when directed mammonward; that the Hebrew was, after all, but a low-flying and lumbering albeit an industrious and copiously-perspiring bird, and content with such fatness as carrion afforded; satisfied to burrow in muck and grow snugly sleek on such scraps and offal as the world and his wife



TIBET MERCHANTS CROSSING THE HIMALAYAS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY THE LATE CAPT. G. F. ATkinson.)

overlooked, or, knowing the existence of, despised; with no lofty aspiration for the rich cream yielded by fair commerce and enterprise, but meekly eager to churn a livelihood from the City's seam.

Such, however, is no longer my estimate of the Houndsditch Jew, and, for his market-place, I may say that, having explored and scrutinised it foot by foot, you know of its mysteries very little more than the mariner knows of the mysteries of the sea. Like the said mariner, you may observe the turbulent surface and see all round about you fish pursuing and pursued, with here and there a curiously-snouted monster, whose business, beyond the certainty that it is predatory, cannot be made out. The mariner, unless he be likewise a diver by profession, or becomes, unlikely, one of a wrecked crew, will never know even for a moment what the sea is like at heart. So as to the depths of Houndsditch: unless a man be, as I, a professional diver, or, just a simple merchantman bound on an eastward land voyage, he be treacherously directed from his proper course by an Israelitish pilot, and finally stranded a sheer hulk on a Whitechapel shore.

Such, I am bound to confess, might I have been for all my diving experience, or, at the least, have dived and found nothing had I not been carefully directed and instructed by an old cruiser in the intricate Houndsditch waters who now enjoys a pension as a retired police inspector. It was he who set right my presumptuous assertion that I knew all about Rag Fair. He inquired, among other things, "What did you think of the jewellery rooms? Did you look in at Barnett's? Did you have any difficulty in getting admittance at Mendez's? Were you not astonished at the tremendous display of gems and precious metals at Moses Levy's?"

Now, as the reader has been made aware, I had seen vast quantities of jewel-shaped ware, and, to the extent of several tons, of studs and pins, and bangles and bracelets; but the metals of which they were composed were palpably no more precious than brass or copper. As to the ownership of the goods, that might have been claimed by a Levy, or a Mendez, or a Moses, but for certain I could not say. As to the "difficulty of gaining admittance," I had not experienced it; on the contrary, Levy, and Mendez, and Moses had each in turn laid violent hands on me with a view of compelling me to inspect the valuables displayed on their boards and benches. All this I explained to my friend, but with no other effect than to convince him that the important feature of the Sunday fair alluded to by him had altogether escaped me. Recent as were my experiences of the inodorous rabble that swarmed at the said fair, I should have been content to have allowed my work to have remained incomplete as it was; but my friend assured me that the *real* jewellery exchanges were highly-respectable places where nobody but rich men—workers in gold, dealers in silver plate, and diamond-merchants—congregated, or, indeed, had business; and he, moreover, drew such graphic and curious pictures of these "back-slum" golconda that I was fain to take a list of them and promise to go and see.

The list comprised five jewellery marts, all to be found within easy stone's-throw, supposing the seeker to stand in Houndsditch between Bevis Marks and Cutler-street. Two of the five are on the Cutler-street side of the main thoroughfare, and the remaining three so close to the Duke-street orange market that the pungent scent of the refreshing fruit comes in at the open sashes of the crowded showrooms in a way to be grateful for. Of the Cutler-street emporiums I will say nothing; certainly they were tolerably rich, and it was somewhat astonishing and suggestive of the forty thieves and "Open Sesame," to find one tapping "three distinct times" at the battered door of a mangy-looking public-house, so very mangy and beetle-browed, with its heavy, overhanging portal and blinking little windows, backed by dingy red curtains—and to find the door gently opened by a ringleted houri, with her bosom in glittering chains, and her ears fettered with masses of gold and cornelian—to find yourself gliding stealthily in with a softness that any one of the celebrated forty might envy, and boldly, and with the aid of a lodger of long standing, crossing the space before the bar, and pushing open a door on which was simply inscribed "Parlour,"—to find yourself crossing the threshold, and the door heavily, though softly, plugging too and shutting you in in among a company beady-eyed and hawk-nosed, some with little black beads, some with grey beads resting on their shirt fronts, and all of them chattering like London sparrows—doing, too, as well as talking. On the common-looking tables were common iron teatrayn inches deep of silver watches and watch-cases, and naked works that looked as though the cruel Jews had flayed them. Over these trays the beady-eyed ones stooped, and plucked, and poked, and picked, fiercely demanding the price as with a foreknowledge that it would be preposterous, and to discuss it a simple waste of time. At least, you might be led to ascribe such fierceness of bargaining to this cause were you unaware of the fact that Jews among themselves *never* haggle; they see what comes of it in their transactions with Christians, and carefully eschew "the silly custom." "Ow butch," asks Mr. Levy, taking up a watch. "Two poud," and, though he may receive the information with a wriggle as though he had been pricked, if he wants the watch, he merely retires from the way for a moment to screw up his courage, and comes back with the "two poud" in his hand, which is tolerably good evidence that "bating" is never entertained even to the extent of a penny.

The second Cutler-street jewellery mart was as much like the first as peas in one pod, and, had I seen none other, would have seemed marvellous. But I had yet to see that which put them both in the shade, reducing them to mere pedlar's packs, whereas before they appeared goodly acres of the estate of that Cressus, Thomas Tiddler. Number one of the Orange-market gold and silver stores was fair enough; there were a few hundred more chains and watches and bracelets than occurred at the other side of Houndsditch, to say nothing of a sprinkling of diamonds, and a measure or so of rubies and emeralds. Number two Orange-market (a shut-up public-house as was number one) was even more wealthy than the other; but number three!

Number three is situated to the right of the Orange market coming from St. Mary-axe. My head is so crammed with Jewish names that I am by no means sure how the proprietor of number three was called. There, however, was his name painted over the doorway of his tavern, and, to the best of my knowledge, it was the same as that of one of the rare old masters in the art of painting. It was about eleven o'clock on the Sunday morning, and the church bells were summoning good folks, and good folks were responding to the summons and wending their way churchward. As to the jewellery mart I was about to enter, it, too, might have been a place of worship, a meeting-house for the Some-of-these-days saints, or at the very least a vestry-room. The tavern itself was, of course, fast closed, but at the side there was a spacious private entrance, the step to the door of which was demurely whitened, while the door itself was so closely ajar that at first sight it seemed shut, and all as quiet and as moral as could be. When you pushed the door, however, it swung easily open, and within you found the hall nicely matted and covered with oilcloth, and at the end, or what seemed to be the end, of the passage was a highly respectable-looking door covered with dark baize. This you likewise pushed open, and found a little bit more passage, with an ordinary sitting-room door in one of the walls of it: of this you turned the handle, and there you were.

Fancy an apartment as long as Fleet-street is broad and wide in fair proportion, with a line of tables about 1ft. wide on either side down the whole length of it, with two large windows at one end of it, and at the other end a snug country posting-house liquor-bar. In the roof at the liquor-bar end of the room a broad skylight. Behind the tables and seated on forms a close row of Jews of every country and complexion, some dark almost as Arabs, others freckled and sickly fair; some so old and shaky that they sat muffled up in cloaks and comforters; others so young and un-Jewish that it seemed a mere temptation to rogues to seat them there as ciphers. On the broad tables, on every one of them, and so that they were completely covered, vessels of gold and of silver, cups and vases, and jugs and

goblets, gold chains in great coils, while silver chains in heaps, being of small account, kept in the rear along with silver spoons and other articles in the same inferior metal; bracelets flickering with rare topazes, lockets glazing with ruddy opals, crosses and clasps and necklaces rich with great pearls, and looking chaste as snow; coronets brilliant with clustering emeralds, and earrings ablaze with diamonds. Beside these there were gems unset, piled in the corners of the trays like cherrystones, or stowed in common pill-boxes. As to watches of gold and of silver, I am quite certain that had they all been placed in a sack the strongest porter from the Orange-market outside would have been unable to carry it, even though its contents were the reward of his labour.

The body of the room—capable of holding at least two hundred people—was cheerful. You could not move without endangering your own toes or somebody else's, nor turn your head without the certainty of encountering a great blast of tobacco smoke from somebody's lips, for—and this seemed to me the most curious part of the business—the company, although orderly, was not the most genteel one would wish to meet, and there were seedy-looking and even shabby-looking men amongst it, who smoked cigars almost to a man, so that the place was downright hazy with smoke and it was a difficult matter to see from one end to the other. And yet there was the mixed company handling the contents of the trays as freely as blackberries, and passing diamonds and pearls to each other, and struggling with costly rings and necklaces through the press that they might examine them at a better light than that afforded near the vender's stall; and the vendors all the while placid and serene, and evidently in no fear of being robbed. As for the proprietor of the tavern, he lounged over his bar, and chatted to his customers, and served them with brandy and other fiery liquors (the church bells were still ringing); and everybody, even to the seedy man who stood near the door with some sort of pickled vegetable in a tub, and with a row of white saucers in which to serve out pen'orths, seemed so contented, and warm, and comfortable, that the sight was quite affecting.

THIBET MERCHANTS CROSSING THE HIMALAYAS.

We have already had an opportunity on a previous occasion of alluding to the passes in the great mountainous range of the Himalayas and bringing to our readers' notice the grand project eagerly commenced by Lord Dalhousie, when Governor-General of India, for opening a ready communication for the commerce of Thibet, Cochin China, and all those other extensive countries which lie to the north of the vast snowy range, with a view to introduce it direct into British India, and at the same time to open an outlet for the immense products of India, as also for British manufactures. A railroad being in contemplation, and by this time in actual course of construction, from Kurrachee to Lahore and thence to the foot of the hills, would at once be the most economical and rapid mode of transporting manufactured goods into the very heart of Central Asia; but here was the stop to all further facilities of enlarging our commercial transactions unless a good road could be made to traverse the difficult passes and attain the boundaries of those half-civilised territories, in which it is by no means safe for the traveller even to put a foot. But very recently we had to record the sad murder of one of those enterprising and enthusiastic men, one of the brothers Schlagintweit, who, exploring those regions, ventured on purely scientific purposes to tread forbidden land, and thereby lost his life. The merchants, however, would only be too thankful were the British Government to open out a good road, and such was perfectly practicable; and long before this one would have been ready, in every way adapted for the conveyance of merchandise, had not the Governor-General started with such a magnificent project, devised on such a splendid scale as, like the Ganges canals among works of irrigation, so among works of mountain roads, and in the mastering of overwhelming difficulties, this grand road should stand out in bold relief, and make the name of Dalhousie a Napoleon of the Himalayas as the author of the Grand Thibet-road. The road was to be sixteen feet wide, fit for wheeled vehicles, and of such an easy gradient that her Ladyship's pony-carriage should be trotted up and down it with equal facility. It was designed to start from the foot of the hills to Simla, and so onwards due north, although there were already extant two excellent roads to Simla but forty-five miles in length, whereas the new one by its tortuous winding to save any increase of gradient almost doubled that distance. The works were pushed on by the Imperial fiat, and certainly with undoubted skill and rare energy. Vast sums of money were expended, although, as we before had occasion to observe, the greater portion was executed by forced labour, the result of some previous treaties, which, at the time of the British annexation of certain States, compelled the hill rajahs to "keep in repair" all existing roads, but which was tortured into compelling them to furnish thousands upon thousands of poor wretched labourers, who were torn from their families, and, like the Egyptians, forced to give their labour for the State.

But they have had their revenge; they have lived to see a fresh dynasty in power; and the extravagant and costly works have been suspended, and are never likely to be revived.

To have improved the existing tracks over which the merchants annually bring their produce should have been the primary object, and, as the requirements of commercial interchange needed it, still further improvements might have been made, until ultimately we should have had the whole traffic of Central Asia poured into the very heart of India, where every facility of rail and steam would have been combined to diffuse it in every direction, to the manifest prosperity of the country. Now, anything more than a practicable passage across the mountains for beasts of burden accustomed to steep ascivities and the severities of climate was perfectly unnecessary. What need for dragging camels—those "ships of the desert," designed by Providence for traversing the burning plains—over peaks and heights rising some 15,000 feet above the level of the sea? Why take bullocks, only adapted for level roads and to undergo the scorching sun of India, and lead them over snow-clad passages, when Nature has provided animals in the shape of ponies admirably adapted for the purpose.

The traveller in the Himalayas is much struck with the convoys of merchandise that at a certain season of the year he meets pouring over the mountains, and making their way to the great fairs which are annually held at a place about 120 miles from Simla, in the interior, in the very heart of the mountain range. The merchants come from Lassa, the capital of Thibet, Ladak, and hundreds of places beyond those lofty peaks of everlasting snow; they bring down gold-dust, borax, diamonds, pearls, musk, goats'-hair, shawls, woollen cloths, lambskins, and other exports, which, finding their way into Cashmere, the Punjab, and India, are so brought on to England.

The Ladakies are a race bearing in their countenances the high cheekbones, the small eyes, and the thick lips of the Chinese Tartar, hideous to behold; but it must be presumed that the class that track their tedious way over the mountains—powerful, muscular, sunburnt men—enjoying total immunity from soap and water, can scarcely be recognised as fair specimens of a nation's beauty. The women wear pantaloons like the men, but have their breasts much exposed; this, with the additional dispensation of oil to the plaited braids of hair, which are further decorated with beads and once gaudy tufts of coloured wool, are what principally distinguish the sex. They tramp along cheerily, and load and unload the heavy packs from their animals with signal rapidity, wielding their lungepoles with skill and dexterity. The animals chiefly used are the Ladak ponies—stout, bony, powerful animals, of about 13½ hands in height. Possibly they may start in tolerable condition, but they are generally in a wretched state before they reach the fairs—neat that they are any the less prized for that, as horse-dealers snap them up immediately; and officers, when in want of such, must either pay the latter an increased price or overreach the dealers by stretching a

march or two, and catching the ponies on the road, and purchasing them before they reach the fair. In two or three months they acquire flesh again, and sell for exorbitant sums to timid, ponderous old gentlemen who want something safe and strong, which these assuredly are, though from want of learning rapid paces they are apt to stumble if pushed too hard. Other ponies are picked up by the merchants on their way, little, shaggy, hill ones, that have been born and bred in the snow. These are still more valuable, as, though not so powerful, they are yet amazingly strong and active, and scarcely ever make a false step. Neither kind is ever shod.

The most attractive object, however, is to see goats and sheep transformed into beasts of burden: each is loaded with a small sack of borax or other produce; and as the wool and skins, as also the horns and other parts of the animals, are marketable, advantage is taken of their strength and endurance; and so they bring down in large flocks the greater portion of the produce, being sold themselves, like the ponies, at the end of the journey. It is quite a picturesque sight to see these flocks bounding down steep declivities and apparently enjoying the fun. Ever and anon some patriarchal goat will perch himself on the shelving ledge of some fearful precipice, and, heedless of the crowd jostling by, look as if half inclined to make one glorious bound, burden and all, into the far-down depths below, when the master's voice will startle him, and, looking quietly round, he gives vent to his overwrought hilarity by a succession of joyous bounds, and in a few but rather extensive leaps he joins the herd now gathering round their master where he has decided to bivouac for the night. Then are the packs piled together, and a snug corner is left for the human portion of the community; blankets are drawn tightly over and fastened by strings to pegs driven into the ground. The grain is dispensed and the animals are watered, the master's attendants light a fire, and a mess of something savoury is dressed, though little is to be seen from the dense smoke; and there they remain. The cattle have the covering only that Nature has assigned to them under such circumstances, and that is their rough, shaggy coats; but mankind stretch themselves on and under woollen cloths, when nothing but the end of the world or daybreak will rouse them from their slumbers to push on perhaps another thirty or forty miles of their way.

MURDER IN ESSEX.

Law, a farm labourer and rat-catcher, lived at Starling-green, Essex, with his wife Rebecca, and two children, a boy and a girl, aged respectively six years and sixteen weeks. He was of intemperate habits. On Friday fortnight he was released from gaol, where he had been sent for breaking a gate. His family, who in the meantime had lived at the workhouse, joined him on his release. Nothing more whatever of their movements is known until about two o'clock on the Tuesday morning, when it seems the woman presented herself at her mother's house, which is situated at Langley, about three miles from the scene of the murders. Her hands and dress were besmeared with blood, and she was accompanied by her eldest child. They had walked across the fields and through a wood in the dead of the night, and, upon gaining admittance into her mother's cottage, she said that "some one had broken into the house and had murdered her husband." She went into her mother's bed, and some time afterwards told her parent that she was herself the murderer. Soon after daybreak the mother spoke of it to a neighbour, and it ultimately came to the knowledge of a tradesman, named Codling, who had formerly been a police-officer. Mr. Codling, with great promptitude, drove over in his horse and cart to Starling-green, and entered the house. The first thing that attracted his attention was a large pool of blood on the floor of the house. This he saw dripping from a hole in the ceiling. He went up stairs, where a frightful spectacle was presented to his view. Law's body, covered with blood, was lying partly on and partly out of the bed. The head was fearfully mutilated—so cut about, indeed, that scarcely a feature was recognisable. Subsequent examination disclosed nearly a hundred wounds on the head, face, and neck, and from fifteen to twenty terrible gashes on the right hand and arm. The unhappy victim had evidently raised his arm to protect his head from the effects of the determined and murderous onslaught being made upon him. While Mr. Codling's examination was proceeding he was startled by hearing the cry of an infant in one corner of the room. He at once turned from the dead to the living, which proved to be the youngest child, which he wrapped in a blanket, and gave it to a young man named Prentice, a farm bailiff, who had accompanied him (Mr. Codling) from Langley. The up-stairs room in which the fearful tragedy had been perpetrated had only one small casement window, over which there is a dimity curtain, and neither Mr. Codling nor Mr. Prentice had the slightest suspicion at the time they discovered the hapless infant that any violence had been used towards it, the room being too dark to enable them to discover the injuries which became apparent upon examination. The woman was taken into custody, and exhibited great anguish of mind. She made a full statement, acknowledging that she had murdered her husband, and repeatedly sighed and groaned, saying, "Oh! my poor Sam," and other words betokening her extreme wretchedness. She confessed, too, that her intention in taking her eldest child with her was to drown it on the way, but that she was afraid lest its cries should be heard and an alarm thereby raised. Upon further examination the handle of a billhook covered with blood was found in one of the corners of the room. A still more minute search was instituted, and at length the iron part of the billhook was discovered wrapped with a piece of dirty old cloth, having been thrust between the bedstead and mattress. It was covered with clotted blood, and a quantity of hair adhered to it. When questioned respecting the wounds upon her son, the murderer admitted that she had beaten him about the head with a hammer.—At the inquest, on Thursday week, she looked in an exceedingly miserable plight, and kept up a continued moaning and sobbing throughout the painful proceedings. The jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Rebecca Law in both cases. There is reason to believe that the woman was labouring under a fit of frenzy when she committed the crime.

THE FRONT AND THE PARKS.—Owing to the severity with which the frost set in on Thursday week the lovers of skating assembled in great force on Sunday in the various metropolitan parks, in the expectation of being able to enjoy their favourite pastime. They were, however, doomed to disappointment, the ice generally being in such an insecure state that the constables of the parks and the ice-men in the employ of the Royal Humane Society, who mustered in great force, would not allow any person that they had the means of preventing, from venturing upon it. In spite, however, of their activity and watchfulness, a great number of lads and boys managed to force their way on to the treacherous surface, and the result, in many cases, was a good dunking for their foolishness and disregard of the well-meant warnings. This was especially the case in St. James's Park, where an immense concourse of the young Arab and "roughs" of London had assembled. On the ornamental water, some 200 of this class got upon the ice, and during the day upwards of 100 immersions took place, none of which, happily, was attended with any fatal consequence, owing to the shallowness of the water, although several of those who fell in were severely cut and bruised by the fall and their struggles to regain their footing on the ice. In one or two cases of boys about eight or nine years of age the ice-men had great difficulty in rescuing them. The most serious of the above cases were taken to the tent of the Humane Society, and, having received prompt attention, were sent off to their homes. About three o'clock in the afternoon, when the park was much crowded, the above-mentioned, deprived of their lurking upon the ice, began to annoy themselves by hustling and "bonneting" any respectable or well-dressed person that came in their way, and, there being no police in the inclosure, several disgraceful scenes occurred, and in many individuals, including females, were ill-treated. Some gentlemen interfered in many instances, but the roughs were in such force that they were obliged to make a hasty retreat. The persons who ventured on the Skating rink were very few in number, the ice being still more unsafe than in St. James's Park. In Regent's Park and Kensington Gardens the ice was in better condition, and a few of the more courageous skaters ventured to skim along the sides of the water, but the danger attending their exercise seemed to take off all the pleasure, and they soon desisted from their perilous sport. The whole of the parks were crowded throughout the day, and Hyde Park and Regent's Park presented a very animated appearance. The sport of skating was continued on Monday and Tuesday, but the change of weather has of course interrupted it for the present.

DEPUTATION TO THE NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA.—On Saturday Lord Elgin, the new Governor-General of India, gave audience to a very important deputation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Cotton Supply Association. The deputation, which was introduced by Mr. J. A. Tanner, M.P., and Mr. Bazley, M.P., pressed upon his Lordship's attention the importance of the cotton question at the present juncture and the injurious effect of the import duty, on twist and cotton manufactures now levied at the various ports of India. Lord Elgin expressed his agreement with much that had been brought before him, especially with reference to the operation of the import duties and the removal of impediments to internal consumption—the great drawback to the remunerative cultivation of cotton.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, ST. JAMES'S HALL.—ON MONDAY EVENING NEXT, JAN. 27, the programme will include Hummel's celebrated Septet, for piano, strings, and wind instruments; and Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata, for pianoforte solo. Recitantes, MM. Charles Hallé, Frédéric Chopin, C. Harper, H. Webb, Payne, and C. Severn; vocalists—Mr. Tennant; conductor—Mr. Bennett. For full particulars see programme. Seats, 5s. 6d.; balcony, 2s. 6d.; admission, 1s. Tickets at Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-street; and Messrs. C. and Hammond's, Regent-street; Keith, Prosser, and Co.'s, 48, Chesham-street; and at Austin's, 28, Piccadilly.

ROYAL ALHAMBRA PALACE, Leicester-square. Open at Seven o'clock. The glorious and wondrous LEONARD Every Evening. Half past Nine; and other brilliant entertainments. On Saturday next, the 1st of February, a Grand Morning Performance, as above. Doors open at Half past One; commence at Two; carriage at Four.—Musical Director, Mr. Thomas Bartleman.

FRENCH GALLERY, 120, Pall-mall.—The NINTH ANNUAL WINTER EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES by living British Artists is now OPEN DAILY, from Half past Nine to Five.—Admission, One Shilling.

ART-UNION OF ENGLAND.—Third Season, 1861-2.—The CHROMO LITHOGRAPHS issued by this Society are ready for delivery. Prizes offered for the best Exhibition of half a guinea. Prospectuses forwarded on application. Offices, 13, Regent-street, S.W.

REPEAL OF THE TAXES ON LITERATURE and the PRESS. The COMMERCIAL TESTIMONIAL to the Right Hon. T. MILNER GIBSON M.P., will be presented on TUESDAY, the 4th of February, at a Public Breakfast (Twelve o'clock precisely) at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, London's-lane-side. Tickets, 10s. 6d. each, to be obtained at the Freemasons' Hall, and at the Committee Rooms, 47, Paternoster-row. Wm. Ewart, M.P., Chairman. ROBERT CHAMBERS, Treasurer. JOHN FRANCIS, Hon. Sec.

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NOTICE TO INVENTORS.—OFFICE for PATENTS, 3, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE, CHARGING-CROSS. Printed Instructions (gratis) as to the Cost of Patents for Great Britain or foreign countries. Advice and assistance in disposing of or working inventions. Apply, personally or by letter, to Messrs. FRANK and Co., Patent Office, 3, Trafalgar-square, Charing-cross, W.C.

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LONDON ORPHAN ASYLUM, CLAPTON, instituted 1813, for the Maintenance and Education of Fatherless Children, of either Sex, and wherever resident. The Next Election occurs on Jan. 27, 1862. Candidates should be nominated forthwith. Children are eligible between the ages of 7 and 11. Forms of petition may be obtained at the office. 72 orphans have been admitted this year. 431 children are now in the Asylum. 2874 orphans have been already assisted. Contributions in aid of the current expenditure are earnestly solicited, as the Charity mainly depends on voluntary support. Annual subscription for one vote, 10s. 6d.; for two votes, 10s. 6d.; for three votes, 10s. 6d.; for four votes, 10s. 6d.; for five votes, 10s. 6d.; for six votes, 10s. 6d.; for seven votes, 10s. 6d.; for eight votes, 10s. 6d.; for nine votes, 10s. 6d.; for ten votes, 10s. 6d. T. CORNWALL, M.A., Hon. Sec. C. J. DYER, M.A. JAMES ROGERS, Secretary. Office, 1, St. Helen's-place, E.C.

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LONDON HOSPITAL, Oct. 1, 1861.—QUARTERLY RETURN OF ADMISSION OF ACCIDENTS and there cases, from July 1 to Sept. 30, 1861:—
Accidents—In Patients 331
Out-Patients 3141 3472
Other Cases—In-Patients 513
Out-Patients 3873 4386
Total 8087
Total number of Patients since Jan. 1 (exclusive of trifling casualties and other cases not requiring continuous treatment) 32,973
By order of the House Committee, Wm. J. NIXON, Secretary.

THE ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS, EARLSWOOD, Redhill, Surrey, under the immediate Patronage of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. The Autumnal Election of this Charity will occur on Thursday, Oct. 21, at the London Tavern, Bishopsgate-street, for the purpose of Electing 20 Applicants—viz., 5 for life and 15 for the ordinary period of five years. Contributions towards this national Charity are earnestly requested. There are at the present time more than 230 inmates; and, although the number of applicants varies from 150 to 180 at each half-yearly election, the Board can only elect 20. They would gladly announce a larger number for admission did the funds permit. "A Second Visit to Earlswood," by the Rev. Edwin Sidney, A.M., and other pamphlets illustrating the workings of the Charity, may be had gratuitously, on application to the Secretary, Mr. William Nicholas, to whom all orders should be made payable. Annual subscription, 10s. 6d. or 11s. 1s.; Life ditto, 55 guineas or 60 guineas. The Elections occur regularly in April and October. JOHN CONNOLLY, M.D., D.C.L., (Gratuities) ANDREW REED, D.D., (Secretaries). Office, 29, Poultry, E.C.

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THE CORNHILL MAGAZINE. No. 26 (for FEBRUARY) will be published on Tuesday, the 28th inst.; Price One Shilling, with Two Illustrations. The Adventures of Philip on his Way through the World. (With an Illustration.) Chap. XXIX.—In the Departments of Seine, Loire and Styx (inferior). XXX.—Returns to Old Friends. What are the Nerves? Froren-out Actors? The Struggles of Brown, Jones, and Robinson. By One of the Firm. Chap. XIX.—George Robinson's Marriage. XX.—Showing how Mr. Brown didn't see his Way. XXI.—Mr. Brown is taken Ill. Fish Culture. The Winter in Canada. Belgravia out of Doors. (With an Illustration.) Commissions of Lunacy. Agnes of Sorrento. Chap. XX.—Florence and her Prophet. XXI.—The Attack on San Marco. Roundabout Papers.—No. 19. On Half a Loaf.—A Letter to Messrs. Broadway, Battery, and Co., of New York, Bankers. SMITH, ELDER, and Co., 65, Cornhill.

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URGENT APPEAL.—THE INFIRMARY FOR CONSUMPTION, 26, Margaret-street, Cavendish-square is in want of immediate ASSISTANCE. The sum of £2000 is required to meet the existing liabilities of this great work of charity. Donations thankfully received by the Rev. R. R. Eardley Wilmet, Chairman, No. 10, Chandos-street, Cavendish-square; the Rev. Wm. Cadogan, No. 6, Albany-street, Regent's Park; F. Kirkham Powell, Esq., Treasurer, 5, Alpha-road, Regent's Park; Sir S. Scott and Co. bankers, Cavendish-square.

SPECIAL AND URGENT APPEAL.—The LONDON FEVER HOSPITAL is in urgent NEED OF FUNDS to meet the current expenses. Unless it meets with more support from the public, this useful Charity, which has existed for sixty years, will be compelled to close its doors against the poor suffering from contagious diseases. Donations or subscriptions thankfully received by Messrs. Hoare and Co., Fleet-street; or by the medical officer at the Hospital, Liverpool-road, N. H. C. OWEN, Hon. Sec.

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Plated strong.	74d.	75d.	76d.
Plated strong.	75d.	76d.	77d.
Plated strong.	76d.	77d.	78d.
Plated strong.	77d.	78d.	79d.
Plated strong.	78d.	79d.	80d.
Plated strong.	79d.	80d.	81d.
Plated strong.	80d.	81d.	82d.
Plated strong.	81d.	82d.	83d.
Plated strong.	82d.	83d.	84d.
Plated strong.	83d.	84d.	85d.
Plated strong.	84d.	85d.	86d.
Plated strong.	85d.	86d.	87d.
Plated strong.	86d.	87d.	88d.
Plated strong.	87d.	88d.	89d.
Plated strong.	88d.	89d.	90d.
Plated strong.	89d.	90d.	91d.
Plated strong.	90d.	91d.	92d.
Plated strong.	91d.	92d.	93d.
Plated strong.	92d.	93d.	94d.
Plated strong.	93d.	94d.	95d.
Plated strong.	94d.	95d.	96d.
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